

## Israel, Qatar hold aviation talks

DOHA (R) — Qatar and Israel held talks on Saturday in the Qatari capital Doha to discuss starting flights between the two countries, an official said. "The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere. We hope to meet again in the near future," Abdul Aziz Al Nuaimi, Qatar civil aviation deputy director, told reporters as he emerged from the meeting with his Israeli counterparts. A senior Israeli transport ministry official had said the talks would cover a request by privately-owned Qatar Airways to fly pilgrims interested in visiting Jerusalem direct to Israel. He said Israel was not at this time requesting to fly to Qatar but that the principle of reciprocity would be discussed. The Israeli delegation includes representatives of Israel's El Al airline and its civil aviation authority. "The Qatari officials have told us that Saudi Arabia has agreed to overflying its territory on flights from Doha to Tel Aviv," the Israeli official added.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

## Regent thanks Sarairoh over MENA summit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday sent a message to Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Sarairoh thanking him for his distinguished role during the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which convened in Amman Oct. 29-31. Prince Hassan voiced pride in the distinguished efforts exerted by Mr. Sarairoh and the Ministry of Post and Communications to link Jordan with the rest of the world "in a manner which gave clear impressions on Jordan's scientific and technical capabilities and which contributed to the success of that international meeting in Amman and in showing Jordan's image in the best manner." Also Saturday, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker sent a message of thanks to President of the Jordanian Contractors Association Mohammad Murad over the association's distinguished contribution to the success of the summit. Convening the MENA summit in Amman was a unique opportunity to manifest the reality of this country and its culture, as well as intellectual and material achievements, Sharif Zeid said.

## Zeroual victory raises hopes of end to strife

FIS leader ready for dialogue with regime

ALGIER (Agencies) — Algeria's military-backed head of state Liamine Zeroual basked in the glow of his presidential election victory on Saturday as attention turned to the possibility of opening dialogue with the Islamic opposition. The leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Iraq joined the leaders of Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania in congratulating Mr. Zeroual in his decisive win at a ballot box (see page 12), while Western governments confined themselves to exhorting him to speak to the outlawed opposition.

The main Islamic fundamentalist group said Friday it was "ready for dialogue" after Mr. Zeroual won the elections. Rahab Kebir, a representative of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), told France's TFI television the banned group was "ready for dialogue with the ruling power so we can contribute to a return to peace in Algeria." "We can hope for a peaceful solution to emerge if the authorities adopt a policy of dialogue and negotiations with the real political opposition," he said. "The Algerian people who aspire to peace. Those who

took part in the elections, and those who did not, they all want peace. Even though we have reservations about the election, the Algerian people want a peace agreement, so that all citizens can express themselves freely." The vote was hailed by the president's supporters and many of his more moderate opponents alike as a victory for peace and democracy and a blow to the aspirations of fundamentalists and their militant armed supporters. Algerians living in France gave Mr. Zeroual a narrow majority of the vote, the Algerian embassy said in Paris. Mr. Zeroual obtained 52.35 per cent of the votes cast in France, ahead of Said Sadi who obtained 28.55 per cent, according to figures issued by the embassy. Turnout in France was 67.71 per cent. The United States wished Algeria a period of calm to resolve its problems. "We think that one of the positive features of the voting yesterday was that so many people voted and the voting was mainly peaceful and that there were no terrorist acts or terrorist attempts to disrupt the voting," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said. According to official results the turnout was almost 75 per cent. Exiled FIS leaders contested the figure, saying it was less than half that. Observers from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) said on Saturday the election had been free and fair, however. "The election took place in a calm atmosphere, in freedom and transparency," the 50-member OAU observation mission said in a statement, adding that voters participated in "very large numbers." Algerian newspapers said on Saturday that Mr. Zeroual's win was a severe blow to militants. "The vote is a victory to democracy," the daily Le Matin said. "It expresses the rejection of fundamentalism and the armed groups." La Tribune said the "convincing" election of Mr. Zeroual opened "a new political situation" that could lead to stability. The daily Al Watan said in a commentary that Mr. Zeroual, appointed head of state by an army-dominated council in January 1994, had

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## Arafat convenes PNA cabinet in Jenin today

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will convene the weekly Palestinian National Authority (PNA) cabinet meeting on Sunday in the new West Bank self-rule area of Jenin, a Palestinian source said on Saturday. It will be the first time Mr. Arafat visits the city since Israeli troops left it on Monday after 28 years of occupation. Jenin was the first city to be transferred since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a peace deal in September to extend self-rule launched last year in Gaza and Jenin. Under the agreement Israeli troops are due to leave five other cities and part of Hebron in coming months. Mr. Arafat would travel to Jenin by helicopter from the Gaza Strip and that officials in charge of his protection were already in the town to prepare the ground for the visit.

Mr. Arafat himself told journalists only that he would "soon be in Jenin, during the week." The PNA cabinet normally meets on Saturdays in Gaza City but it has held two sessions in the West Bank enclave of Jericho, where autonomy was launched in May 1994 at the same time as on the Gaza Strip. The PNA meanwhile appealed to residents of Jenin to register their weapons at police stations. Jericho police said in a statement issued on Saturday: "Your Palestinian Authority calls on all brothers, the citizens of Jenin district, to hastily register your private weapons at police stations in order to maintain security and to preserve the safety of the homeland and of citizens and law." The statement, issued by overall commander of Palestinian security forces in

the West Bank, Haj Ismail Jaber, and distributed in Jenin, said arms registration would start Sunday until Dec. 12. When the PLO took over Gaza Strip and Jericho last year, it licensed private weapons and punished those who refused to obey orders. Following the killing of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by a right-wing Jew on Nov. 4, the Palestinian police stepped up security around Mr. Arafat in self-rule Gaza City. In Damascus, the hardline Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) asked its supporters on Saturday to register as voters for self-rule elections even though the group says it will boycott the polls. "The political bureau reaffirms its decision to boycott the Palestinian elections, but asks its members and those who oppose the Oslo (auton-

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## Rabin security officers had flawed records, report says

Combined agency dispatches  
TWO SENIOR Shin Bet intelligence agents who lost their jobs for failing to protect Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had flawed records even before his assassination, Israeli newspapers reported Saturday. The dailies Haaretz and Maariv said part of the work of a News Agency inquiry, which is to hold its 25th anniversary working session on Sunday, would be to determine if Number 2 Howrah by the two agents were promoted to senior posts in the Shin Bet. Up until last week when he was suspended, a 41-year-old whose identity can not be revealed headed a Shin Bet section keeping a watch on the whole of Jewish extremists, like Mr. Rabin's assassin Yigal Amir. He was named to the post less than a year ago, with the blessing of Mr. Rabin who also held the defence portfolio. "His appointment shook the moral norms in force in the Shin Bet," another source told Haaretz, giving an account of a sex scandal involving a woman in the same internal intelligence service. He served at the U.S. con-

sulate in New York between 1984 and 1988, and was "an expert in public relations, very sure of himself and with a very lively mind," said Maariv. "But he always gave the impression that all the security measures were infallible and had a tendency to embellish things. He never lied but always avoided showing the slightest fault," said one of his superiors. The superior drew up a negative report on his performance in the United States but it was ignored. "He was not capable of taking responsibility for a very large security operation," the official said. But he was still promoted to chief of the protection unit six months before the assassination. Police Minister Moshe Shahal said the assassin of Mr. Rabin also tried to kill the Israeli prime minister at the site of a deadly Palestinian bus bombing in a Tel Aviv suburb in July. "Yigal Amir went to Ramat Gan immediately after the bus blast was

fulate in New York between 1984 and 1988, and was "an expert in public relations, very sure of himself and with a very lively mind," said Maariv. "But he always gave the impression that all the security measures were infallible and had a tendency to embellish things. He never lied but always avoided showing the slightest fault," said one of his superiors. The superior drew up a negative report on his performance in the United States but it was ignored. "He was not capable of taking responsibility for a very large security operation," the official said. But he was still promoted to chief of the protection unit six months before the assassination. Police Minister Moshe Shahal said the assassin of Mr. Rabin also tried to kill the Israeli prime minister at the site of a deadly Palestinian bus bombing in a Tel Aviv suburb in July. "Yigal Amir went to Ramat Gan immediately after the bus blast was

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Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Saturday pushes a button, launching the operations of the new printing press of the Jordan Press Foundation Company as the foundation chairman, Mahmoud Al Kayed (third from left), and the foundation director-general, Mohammad Al Amad (left) look on (photo by Yousef Allan)

## Sharif Zeid: Constructive criticism is welcome, but not 'imported principles'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday inaugurated the new buildings of the Jordan Press Foundation, which publishes Al Rai and the Jordan Times — and the foundation's commercial press, and announced that the government was determined to create the best and most favourable climate for the work of Jordanian journalists. "The government does not mind criticism or hearing the views of the opposition, but it can by no means tolerate any harm to the country and its achieve-

ments," said the prime minister at a meeting after the opening ceremony with Mahmoud Al Kayed, chairman of the board of the Jordan Press Foundation, Foundation Director General Mohammad Amad and journalists. "The government is not happy with those people who import their principles from abroad. We are all partners in building this country and we all believe that reform is inevitable but we do not tolerate any destructive criticism," he said. "The government will always support views and

accept constructive criticism aimed at safeguarding national interests and achievements realised over the past four decades," he added. "One has to be fair with his country and should admit that what has been achieved was like a miracle, given the meagre resources of a country that does not have petroleum or rivers but is proud of its skilled citizens and their capacity for development and construction," Sharif Zeid said. "Any denial of these achievements is tantamount to treason," said

Sharif Zeid. "We would hold to account those people who do harm to the country and its achievements." The prime minister, who earlier launched the operations of the new printing press, lauded the work of Al Rai newspaper for its excellent service to the public, describing it as a national institution dedicated to the service of the nation. Mr. Kayed stressed in a brief address that the Al Rai staff would remain totally dedicated to serving

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## Hopes grow for Bosnia accord

DAYTON (Agencies) — Hopes grew Saturday that leaders of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia would agree to a historic accord this weekend to end over four years of warfare in the former Yugoslavia, as Bosnia's foreign minister hinted at concessions by the Muslim-led Bosnian government. Mohammad Sacirbey said there were "nine chances out of 10" that some peace deal would now be signed in the next couple of days, after the Muslim-led government apparently buckled to U.S. pressure and made concessions.

It's fair to say this is certainly a defining moment in the Dayton peace talks," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters. At the United Nations, the U.N. mediator for Bosnia, Thorvald Stoltenberg, told the U.N. Security Council that talks would likely end in the coming days but that other issues would take weeks to resolve. However, Mr. Sacirbey's announcement that he had offered his resignation caught Sarajevo by surprise on Saturday. Mr. Sacirbey told Reuters he was leaving to make way for a Bosnian Croat in one of the government's top positions. "The country has to have a Croat in one of its top three posts. The president isn't going and the prime minister doesn't want to go so I decided I would go," he said. Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic told Reuters by telephone from the central Bosnian town of Fojnica that Mr. Sacirbey had resigned in anticipation of his country's government being radically

changed after execution. The minister called on "all citizens, prayer leaders, journalists and intellectuals to be vigilant and cooperate with the security services and give them all the information they have" on Monday's car-bomb attack. The Saudi authorities have put up a reward of \$800,000 for information which will help them track down the perpetrators. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has joined the Saudi authorities in investigating the attack, claimed by shadowy groups ordering U.S. troops out of the kingdom. Five Americans and one Indian national died in the blast which ripped through the U.S. military offices in Riyadh said to train the Saudi National Guard. In Washington, a State Department spokesman said Friday that the death toll may

have risen to seven. But U.S. embassy spokesman Jeffrey Thomas said here the next day: "There has not been a seventh dead. I checked the hospitals this morning." State Department spokesman Nick Burns said more than 25 officials from the FBI were working to gather evidence that will help uncover those responsible for the attack. "They're combing through the rubble of this great tragedy, trying to piece together evidence that would lead us back to these cowards who set off the two bombs," Mr. Burns said. No arrests have been made yet in the investigation, a U.S. diplomat in Riyadh said, but witnesses are being regularly interviewed by Saudi officials. A third militant group has announced responsibility for the bombing, the Egyptian

## Bombers will be crucified — S. Arabia

RIYADH (Agencies) — The bombers who attacked U.S. military offices in the Saudi capital will be killed and crucified in line with Islamic law, the Saudi minister for religious affairs vowed on Saturday. "Islam in no way tolerates any act of violence, extremism and terrorism, and those who commit such acts are saboteurs," said Abdullah Ben Abdul Mohsen Al Turki, quoted by the official news agency SPA. The verse in the Koran which says "the punishment for those fighting against God and His prophet and sowing evil is death, crucifixion or amputation of the hands and feet would apply to the bombers. Saudi Arabia strictly applies Islamic law and beheads those convicted of heresy, murder, rape and drug trafficking. For particularly bad crimes, the bodies are cruci-

## Syria welcomes Peres' peace moves

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria gave a rare welcome on Saturday to statements made recently by acting Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, especially his readiness to resume stalled talks with Damascus. The official daily Tishreen said that unlike his predecessor Yitzhak Rabin, who was murdered by a right-wing Jewish student on Nov. 4, Mr. Peres did not submit to pressure of Israeli hardliners and extremists. "The previous Israeli government (of Rabin) submitted to the pressure of the Israeli rightist and extremist settlers and asked the United States to postpone its peace efforts until next spring..." "But Peres who was asked to form the new Israeli government expressed a desire to resume the negotiations and declared that peace was more important than elections," Tishreen said. The Syrian daily, however, said any breakthrough in talks with Damascus was subject to Israel's readiness to withdraw fully from the

Golan Heights, captured by Israel in 1967, and to accept equal security arrangements. Tishreen said Damascus was ready to "meet requirements of peace in the region," a reference to Israel's demands for the establishment of full normal ties with Syria. Syria has held sporadic peace talks with Israel since 1991 but the negotiations are stalled over the fate of the Golan, security arrangements and future ties. The last round of talks, held in Washington in June, failed after Syria rejected an Israeli demand to set up an early warning post in the Golan. Reports from Israel said U.S. special Middle East peace coordinator, Dennis Ross, was to arrive there on Saturday night to meet Mr. Peres. A U.S. spokesman said in Washington Mr. Ross would not visit other countries. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said earlier in Japan that Damascus had informed Washing-

ton directly that it wanted to speed up negotiations with Israel. "Syria's desire for the achievement of a just, permanent and comprehensive peace has become a reality. Syria had proved to envoys of the U.S. and the European Union that peace was Syria's strategic option," Tishreen said. A U.S. State Department spokesman said Friday Mr. Ross will visit Israel on the weekend to "touch base" on peace prospects after the murder of Mr. Rabin. The statement by spokesman Nicholas Burns appeared to rule out any U.S. shuttle diplomacy between Israel and Syria in the immediate future, despite reports that Damascus wants to push ahead with the stalled negotiations. Mr. Burns indicated Washington, before embarking on a major new peace push, wanted to give Israel more time to refashion its government following the trauma of Mr. Rabin's assassination.

"Ambassador Ross... will be travelling in a couple of days to Israel. He will not be travelling to any other country in the region during this particular trip," he told reporters. It will be the first visit by a senior U.S. official since President Bill Clinton attended Mr. Rabin's funeral in Jerusalem on Nov. 6. Mr. Burns said Mr. Ross "wants to touch base with the Israeli leadership, as the Israeli leadership under the authority of acting prime minister Peres forms the new Israeli government." He said it was "good to hear" that Syria wants to accelerate progress in its four-year-old talks with Israel following the death of Mr. Rabin. "I think it's necessary though for all of us to allow the Israeli government some time to be able to form a new government, to put in place all of the new officials, and allow the acting prime minister a measure of time before we can expect actual progress on the Israeli-Syrian track."

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## King to visit S. Arabia in early December

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein will pay an official visit to Saudi Arabia early next month in response to an invitation by King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz, an informed source said Saturday. "The visit will be in the framework of brotherly consultations between King Hussein and King Fahd over Middle Eastern issues and bilateral relations," said the source in a statement to the Jordan Times and Al Rai.

Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Jordan Sheikh Abdullah Suddeiri last Thursday presented his credentials to King Hussein, marking the return of relations between the two countries to normal. The King's visit will be the first official trip by the Monarch to Saudi Arabia in more than five years and his meeting with King Fahd is expected to seal the reconciliation between Jordan and Saudi Arabia after a strain caused by the Gulf crisis of 1990-91. Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports said Saudi Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal was expected to visit Amman in the last week of November ahead of the King's visit to Saudi Arabia.



## Militants suffer a setback in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria's Islamic insurgents have suffered a severe setback after failing to prevent Thursday's presidential election but they still remain a potent threat to peace and stability in the country.

The mobilisation of 300,000 soldiers, police and auxiliary forces in a massive security operation prevented any major outbreak of violence in a country ravaged by almost four years of civil strife that has left more than 30,000 dead.

Voters deserted the Islamic opposition parties who had called for a boycott of the country's first multi-party presidential contest and defied armed militants who had threatened to kill anyone casting their ballot.

But even as Algerians were still celebrating the sweeping election victory of President Liamine Zeroual, politicians and the national press on Saturday began to express concern about how the militants would respond.

Two days after the voting, only a few isolated incidents, by Algerian standards, were reported in the national press.

Four Muslim militants were killed near a polling station at Tissemsilt, 100 kilometres southwest of Algiers; a homemade shell hit an election office in Tadmait in the northeastern Kabylie region, and a gas canister bomb was disarmed in a hotel in the eastern city of Constantine.

However, the security operation that prevented any major attack was scaled down this weekend, the many checkpoints were dismantled and the blanket guard on public buildings was lifted Friday.

Newspapers voiced concern that the two main militant organisations, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) and the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the armed wing of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), would exact revenge.

"It cannot be ruled out that there will be actions after the withdrawal of security," the daily La Tribune warned Saturday.

"They are going to try to react and they want to punish those who voted," said a man in a working-class suburb of Algiers.

The two groups, who once effectively controlled large

parts of the country, have suffered so many setbacks in the past few months at the hands of the security forces that analysts see little chance of a military win for the militants.

Police and army have honed their anti-guerrilla techniques to perfection and the militants' operations in rural areas have been severely limited by the creation of communal guards and armed self-defence groups.

Still, however, the assassinations, ambushes of patrols and sabotage have continued and the militants have developed one tactic — car-bombs — with spectacular effects that have masked their other military inadequacies.

The GIA, a loosely linked network of groups of young desperados from the working-class suburbs and mujahideen veterans of the Afghan war, formed around emirs or chiefs, is at its most powerful in the cities.

The AIS has a more organised structure and is divided into three regions. It could be willing to give up the armed struggle if Mr. Zeroual is able to strike a peace deal with the FIS.

The runner-up in the presidential elections accused the government of "hijacking" the race in favour of Mr. Zeroual.

"Last December a plane was hijacked and now votes and ballot boxes were hijacked," Islamist leader Mahfoud Nahnah told supporters in Algiers.

But he appealed to them to stay calm and maintain the peaceful policies of his legal Islamist group, Hamas.

"We will sleep comfortably while those who worked on misleading and cheating will get their punishment," he said to the chants of supporters. "Three million legitimate votes, seven million illegitimate votes."

Mr. Zeroual won more than 7.2 million votes to Mr. Nahnah's nearly 3 million votes.

Militants, waging war against the authorities, hijacked a French airliner last December which ended when French commandos stormed the jet killing the four hijackers.

Mr. Nahnah later told a news conference that the government must open a political dialogue with the country's opposition.



ELECTION PREPARATIONS: A Palestinian boy shows a local teacher and European Union (EU) observers (back with hats) a family's home for voter registration in Jabalya camp in the Gaza Strip. A first group of 66 EU observers arrived in the Gaza Strip last week to supervise Palestinian self-rule elections scheduled to be held in January (see page one) (AFP photo)

## UAE, Iran start new talks in Doha on dispute over islands

DOHA (Agencies) — Iranian and United Arab Emirates (UAE) officials held their first talks in three years here Saturday on their countries' dispute over three islands in the Gulf, the Qatari News Agency (QNA) said.

Qatar Foreign Minister Hamad Ben Jasssem Ben Jabr Al Thani, whose country has been mediating for the past four months, took part in the meeting.

He called on the two sides "to work to find a common basis to resolve the conflict in the best way ... in order to ensure the stability and security of the region."

The minister was "confident that these discussions will lead to results serving the interests of both sides."

A source close to the talks said the first meeting Saturday was to let delegates get to know each other, and would be followed by a second round of talks later in the day aimed at setting an agenda for further negotiations on the three southern Gulf islands.

Senior Foreign Ministry officials, Khalifa Shahin Al Murri for the UAE and Iran's Hussein Sadeqi, headed the two teams.

A UAE delegate said

further negotiations would take place at a more senior level.

The talks on the islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunb were the first since September 1992 when a session in Abu Dhabi broke up without agreement.

The Abu Dhabi round collapsed after Iran refused to discuss the Greater and Lesser Tunb which it has occupied since 1971, and which is claimed by the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah.

The UAE would try to get the Greater and Lesser Tunb on the agenda of the current round of negotiations, a source said.

The islands dispute erupted in 1992 after the UAE accused Iran of trying to annex Abu Musa despite a 21-year-old arrangement to share administration with the emirate of Sharjah.

In 1994, the UAE suggested taking the dispute to the International Court of Justice in the Hague, which Iran rejected. The UAE's position is backed by its fellow Gulf Cooperation Council members — Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait.

"This time we hope to achieve some breakthrough,"

a Qatari Foreign Ministry official said Saturday.

A senior Iranian diplomat told Reuters: "The meeting is being held in the framework of brotherhood. We are exchanging our data. Iran believes in solving all disputes in the spirit of amity and brotherhood."

But he added, "there is no question of mediation or international arbitration on differences between two brothers. Has any international court or international arbitration solved any of the problems of the Middle East?"

A source close to the negotiations told Reuters on Friday the meeting was arranged by the Qatari government.

The two sides will "prepare an agenda for bilateral negotiations between the two countries with the objective of solving the dispute between them over the three islands," the source said.

No bilateral meetings were held on the dispute in the past three years because the UAE insisted that sovereignty over the islands should be on the agenda, but Iran said its sovereignty was non-negotiable and it was only willing to discuss "misunderstandings."

## British destroyer visits Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — The missile destroyer HMS Cardiff sailed into Beirut on Saturday on the first goodwill visit by a British warship to Lebanon in nearly 30 years.

The four-day visit emphasises Britain's belief that Lebanon is back to normal after the 1975-90 civil war and it is time for British business to return to Beirut, embassy officials said.

Lebanon was the entertainment centre of the Middle East before the war, and the Cardiff's visit will be packed with fun for the 280 sailors, with a rugby match, a barbecue, rounds of golf, scuba diving and tastes of Beirut's throbbing nightlife.

Lebanese army troops stood guard on the quay as the Cardiff docked and Lebanese schoolchildren, journalists and other visitors poured on board past British sailors armed with automatic rifles.

The visit also demonstrates Britain's confidence in the Middle East peace process, British officials said.

"We are here to demonstrate to the Middle East and Lebanon that Britain sees the peace efforts in the Middle East as very important," Commander Nick Butler, captain of the Cardiff, told reporters.

British warships last entered Lebanese waters in 1984, at the height of the civil war, to evacuate British troops with a U.S.-French-British and Italian multinational force that failed to restore peace in Beirut.

The Royal Navy's last goodwill visit was in 1988 when a minesweeper paid a call on Beirut port, officials said.

"This is to demonstrate that we think Lebanon is back to normal and that we would like to see more British businessmen coming back to Beirut," a British embassy official said.

Lebanon is on a multi-billion-dollar reconstruction drive under billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri and embassy officials hope the Cardiff's visit will help persuade more British businesses to seek opportunities in Lebanon.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 'Sudan drafting teens in civil war'

CAIRO (AFP) — The Sudanese opposition based here accused on Saturday the Khartoum government of forcibly drafting teenagers to fight in the civil war against southern guerrillas. "Boys as young as 15 years old are being forced into the Popular Defence Forces (PDF)" — an Islamic government militia — the National Democratic Alliance, an opposition coalition, said in a statement. "Apparently, recent reversals suffered by the regime on the battlefields of south Sudan have frightened it so much it has stepped up its forcible conscription of Sudanese youth," the alliance said. The group said "conscription is carried out by night when families are asleep. (PDF) thugs invade homes well after midnight and collect youths. Any resistance from parents is met with brute force." "Parents whose sons are not found at home are taken to security offices and threatened with detention if they fail to produce their son within a specified period," it said. This desperate act comes after a wave of abductions of youths from the street, in bus stations, football fields, marriage celebrations and any gathering anywhere. The alliance said the new measures showed the "dismal failure" of government attempts at mobilisation "anchored on appeals to religious and racial sentiment." The government army has been fighting a renewed offensive begun earlier this month by southern rebels, who claim to be approaching the south Sudan capital of Juba.

### At least three killed in Mogadishu fighting

MOGADISHU (R) — At least three people were killed in fighting between Muslim fundamentalist militiamen in the Medina district of Somalia's capital, witnesses said on Saturday. They said clashes started on Friday when gunmen loyal to Medina leader Musa Sudi Yalahow discovered rivals from the Al Islah Muslim Brotherhood strutting in a garage near Medina. Yalahow men seized a "technical" battlewagon and at least three people were killed and six wounded in the fighting that went on for five hours, the witnesses said. Militia sources said Yalahow forces captured the garage, seven Al Islah fighters and several rifles and ammunition. Mr. Yalahow is vehemently opposed to south Mogadishu faction leader Mohammad Farah Aidede, who was elected by supporters as "president" of Somalia in June and set up his own government. Mr. Yalahow had accused Al Islah of supporting General Aidede. His fundamentalist forces hold Medina and the southern end of the runway at Mogadishu airport, closed since U.N. troops left in March.

### Lebanon's Hariri visits Argentina

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri flew to Buenos Aires on Saturday on the first official visit to Argentina by a Lebanese leader in more than 30 years. Mr. Hariri, a billionaire construction tycoon who took office in October 1992 to rebuild Lebanon after the 1975-90 civil war, was accompanied by the ministers for emigrants, industry and oil, information and health. He will meet President Carlos Menem and have talks on economic and trade relations which are currently slight but in Argentina's favour. According to official figures, Lebanon imported goods worth \$10.7 million from Argentina in 1994 and exported goods worth \$90,000. Mr. Hariri will also meet leaders of the Lebanese community in Argentina which has some 1.5 million citizens, of Lebanese origin. The last Lebanese leader to visit Argentina was President Camille Chamoun in 1954.

### Beirut dockers threaten strike

BEIRUT (R) — Beirut port workers unions said on Saturday they will stop overtime work on Monday and go on strike on Nov. 24 and 25. A statement issued by the two unions representing blue-collar and white-collar workers said they were acting in protest against government delays in signing a pay agreement. They are also demanding a reduction of taxes imposed on day labourers at the port.

### Gunman kills one in 'Ain Al Hilweh

'AIN AL HILWEH (AFP) — A gunman opened fire on a group of Palestinians outside a grocery shop in a South Lebanon refugee camp killing one person and wounding three others, Palestinian sources said Friday. The assailant used a machine gun and fled after the shooting in the main street of 'Ain Al Hilweh camp, the sources said. Bullets also hit a gas canister in the shop setting off a loud explosion and a fire, they added. An investigation was underway to determine the identity of the gunman and his motives, the sources said. The names of the casualties were not immediately revealed.

### Dutch cancels visit of Iranian minister

THE HAGUE (AFP) — The Dutch government on Friday withdrew an invitation to Iran's Agriculture Minister Issa Kalantari in protest at Iran's attitude to the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The visit, due to begin Dec. 4 — was cancelled "for the moment," the Dutch agriculture ministry said. Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani had made "shocking remarks" welcoming Mr. Rabin's assassination on Nov. 4, which created "a climate little inclined to improve trade relations" between the two countries, a ministry spokesman said. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will make a brief visit here Wednesday, during which he will have talks with Prime Minister Wim Kok and Foreign Minister Hans van Mierlo, the foreign ministry said Friday.

## Assassin's claim of divine guidance anathema to religious leaders

NEW YORK (AP) — Few words could be more chilling to people who believe religion offers a pathway to peace than those of the confessed assassin of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin: God ordered me to do it.

The murder adds one more violent act to the atrocities committed in the name of religion, from Bosnia to Northern Ireland, from India to the Middle East.

If there are indications of hope in a growing interfaith movement for peace, Mr. Rabin's assassination is another sign of the difficulties people of faith face in stopping extremists within fundamentalist groups from invoking God's name in terrorist acts.

While there was nearly a universal condemnation of the killing, religious groups, particularly those on the far right, need to examine their own rhetoric to see whether they contributed to the climate of hate that made such an act possible, some observers say.

"A single condemnation is not going to be enough," University of New York sociology professor Samuel Heiman said of the orthodox response to the killing. "We have to talk about a different way of teaching about the value of human life."

Two years ago, at the parliament of the world's religions in Chicago, hundreds of religious leaders from all the major faiths signed a statement on their core value that came down hardest on the sins committed in the name of religion.

"Time and again we see leaders and members of religions incite aggression, fanaticism, hate and xenophobia — even inspire and legitimise violent and bloody conflicts. ... We are filled with disgust," the statement said.

In the immediate aftermath of the Rabin assassination, with the exception of some fringe-right groups, Jewish leaders from all branches of the faith condemned the act.

"We reaffirm the principle that a crime in the name of God is a heinous crime against God and a despicable desecration of His name," said Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Inter-Faith Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

Some orthodox groups also strongly denounced the killing.

"Violence and murder are anathema to our Torah's teachings, as they are to all-civilised people. The moral leadership of the world must not tire in its efforts to eliminate fanaticism and extremism of any kind," said a statement from the Chabad-Lubavitch movement.

Rabbi Moshe Sherer, president of Agudath Israel of America, said: "No matter what a Jew's views may be about the current peace process or the sitting Israeli government, violence is not a Jewish option, and murder remains the ultimate sin against another person."

It may be too late to change the minds of extremists who believe they are agents of God's plan unfolding in history, but condemnations of terrorist acts by conservative religious groups — in this case, orthodox Jews — may reduce their drawing power, according to R. Scott Appleby, a history professor at Notre Dame University and co-editor of the five-volume Fundamentalism Project.

"The one area of hope is this can erode the recruiting process for these radical groups," Mr. Appleby said.

Mr. Heilman, author of "Defenders of the Faith: Inside Ultra-Orthodox Jewry," said that after the assassination of Mr. Rabin and the murder of at least 30 Palestinian worshippers in Hebron last year by a right-wing follower, these religious groups need to look at the consequences of the way they sometimes vilify their opponents.

At one point, Mr. Heilman said, when a prominent rabbi said the killing of Mr. Rabin would be allowed under Jewish law, his peers did not take him to task and condemn him, but treated the statement as a matter of legitimate debate.

"You are kind of providing a theological basis for this kind of act," he said.

Rabbi Herbert Schaalan of Chicago, a member of the board of trustees of the 1993 parliament of the world's religions, said it is unclear to what extent one can control fanatics.

"This is one of the enormous risks and the dark side of religious systems: that they are likely to breed the passion and the authoritative certainty of what is right and wrong," Mr. Schaalan said.

He said the challenge now in Israel is to tone down the rhetoric, and for Jewish people all over the world to examine their own understanding of how God wants them live their lives.

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## Prince Abdullah inaugurates chlorine plant in Muwaqar

MUWAQAR (Petra)—A JD 12 million plant for producing chlorine, a component for a variety of industries was formally inaugurated here by HRH Prince Abdullah.

The factory has an initial production capacity of 30,000 tonnes of various chlorine products, half of which is exported to Arab and foreign nations and earning the country nearly JD8 million annually, according to Mohammad Yusef Taber, the board chairman of the National Chlorine Industries Compa-

ny which established the plant in cooperation with a German firm.

In an address at the inauguration ceremony, Mr. Taber said that the plant employs 150 Jordanian workers, technicians and engineers and bases its production on primary substances all produced in the Kingdom.

He said that the plant produces chlorine products which are important for sterilising drinking water for hygiene in homes and hospitals and for other

industries like soap manufacturing.

Mr. Taber said that the plant produces 6,000 tonnes of sodium hypochlorite and 6,500 tonnes of caustic soda among other products and that table salt, which is abundant in Jordan, is used as a component for chlorine production.

Prince Abdullah, who stood in for His Majesty King Hussein, was accompanied by Minister of State Jamal Kheisha and Minister of Labour Nader Abul Sha'er.

## WHO praises move to iodise salt

By Samir Hijawi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A senior official of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Saturday praised Jordan for introducing a set of specifications requiring that iodine be added to table salt produced in Jordan.

Anna Vester, chief of the WHO's Middle East and North Africa section said this measure is due to the new specifications introduced by the Jordanian Institution for Standardisation and Metrology (JISM).

Mrs. Vester was speaking during a visit to the Azraq salt factory where she inspected the salt production processes in the company of Health Ministry officials.

ductured by Dr. Sa'ad Hijazi and Dr. Ibrahim Khatib from the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) revealed that 37 per cent of Jordanian children suffer from iodine deficiency which adversely affects the brain and could lead to retardation.

Director of the Health Ministry's mother and child care department, Usama Badran said that iodine is being added to salt produced in Azraq under the health authorities' supervision.

The salt factory manager Ahmad Aqra'a said the addition of iodine had always been optional until the introduction of the new specifications.

Mr. Aqra'a said his factory had some difficulty in obtaining iodine because of its high cost but that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had provided the factory with the required amounts of iodine at reasonable prices.

In the next two months the factory is expected to receive JD 1 million worth of new equipment needed for improving the quality of produced salt, Mr. Aqra'a said.

Mrs. Vester, who was accompanied by a group of experts taking part in a conference on iodine in Amman, said it was hoped that the conference will come up with solutions to issues related to iodine deficiency.

The JISM early this year introduced the salt iodine specification, making it mandatory for all salt producers to add iodine to their salt product.

According to Health Ministry officials, a study con-

ductured by Dr. Sa'ad Hijazi and Dr. Ibrahim Khatib from the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) revealed that 37 per cent of Jordanian children suffer from iodine deficiency which adversely affects the brain and could lead to retardation.

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## Police investigate Zarqa murder

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police Saturday were investigating the death of a 28-year-old man who was murdered Friday in a farm on the Berein Highway near Zarqa, confirmed sources said.

The source told the Jordan Times that the victim, Rida Abdul Wahab, an Egyptian national, was stabbed to death, and was possibly "sodomised."

"The man was robbed of his belongings, and it is suspected that he was raped," the source told the Jordan Times.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Saturday confirmed that a man was murdered Friday, but refused to

release any information and said that "they had no information to offer."

Meanwhile, also on Friday, three people including two children were killed in separate drowning incidents in Wadi Mujib and the northern Jordan Valley, according to police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports.

In the first incident, CDD frogmen Saturday retrieved the bodies of two children who drowned in the northern Jordan Valley Friday, CDD reports said.

The victims, Adnan Abdallah, 10, and his cousin Yusef Mahmoud, 14, were reported missing by Adnan's father after they failed to return home Friday evening.

After searching the area, police retrieved the clothes of the victims beside the Wadi Arab Dam Friday. On Saturday, their bodies were discovered by CDD rescue units.

Also on Friday, a 22-year-old man was killed in a drowning incident in Wadi Mujib, according to reports.

The victim, Hisham Nabil Hashem, went swimming with two of his friends in Al Zarqa area, the reports said.

His friends, who were not identified in the report, told police that after a while they saw their friend Hisham waving for help before disappearing.

His body was retrieved by CDD frogmen hours after he was reported missing.

## Electricity authority awards JD 34m sub-station contract to British firm

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Saturday awarded a JD 34 million contract to British firm Reyrolle Projects of the Rolls Royce group to build an electric 400/132 kilovolt sub-station in Aqaba.

The project entails building the new sub-station in Aqaba within the Aqaba Thermal Power Station location as part of the Jordanian-Egyptian power interconnection scheme to link the station's two steam turbines installed under Stage II of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station extension project, according to a JEA statement.

The statement also said that the project entails boosting the 132-kilovolt overhead transmission line between Aqaba and Amman to 400 kilovolts.

The construction of the sub-station is expected to be completed together with the other affiliated facilities by mid-1997.

The sub-station will be the first in Jordan with a 400-kilovolt capacity and will link with the national grid that runs through the Kingdom.

The financing of the sub-station project will come from a package of loans that Jordan has raised for the energy sector from the Japanese government, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, the JEA said.

The contract was signed by JEA Director General Mohammad Said Arafeh and Don Sawyer, the Reyrolle Projects marketing manager.

## Princess Basma opens workshop on social change and vulnerable groups

By Lola Keilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday opened a two-day workshop entitled "Social Change and Vulnerable Groups in the Middle East Region" by calling on non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to help government institutions in confronting and dealing with the problems of poverty and unemployment.

"There is a vital need for the expansion of the role of these organisations," the Princess said, "which have direct and continual contact with local communities and because many governments in the developing world are in need of non-governmental organisations efforts in helping the less fortunate communities."

Sarajini Vitachi, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) regional director said traditional social and economic safety nets in the Middle East and North Africa may find themselves unable to cater to the needs of vulnerable groups, the poor, women and children, which are likely to increase in size, as a result of privatisation, structural adjustment programmes, and globalisation.

Dr. Qandeel said the Middle East receives the least financial assistance from the U.N. and international agencies compared to other parts of the world. In order to tackle these internal and external problems, which the participants described as lack of organisation, coordination, transparency and struggle over fundings on part of the NGOs, government bureaucracies need to be relaxed, and laws dating back to three decades need to be reviewed.

Princess Basma said the objective is to achieve peace and security and to stimulate development. Recent events in the region have proved that no peace can be achieved without development and no sustainable development can be attained without security and stability, she said.

The Princess called on governments and non-governmental organisations to help end illiteracy, improve the status of women and create a balance between needs and resources as well as stem poverty.

Experts in the field of human rights and human development from non-governmental organisations and United Nations agencies will address the "complementary" role NGOs can play in forming safety nets for vulnerable groups in the region, especially with declining financial assistance from local governments, industrialised countries and multilateral agencies to the poor.

Participants in the workshop, organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) and UNICEF, stressed that NGOs in the Middle East which number about



HRH Princess Basma Saturday addresses the opening session of a workshop on social change and vulnerable groups in Amman (Petra photo)

40,000, face governmental and inter-governmental obstacles which stand in the way of their independence.

Financial independence is the major concern of the participants, who stressed that government fundings of their institutions leads to political hegemony and that therefore the private sector should shoulder some of the responsibility especially since the new economic climate will increase the number of the underprivileged.

"In order to provide social and economic security, the private sector has to play a major role or the new economic conditions will reflect badly on them," said Abdullah Kharib, president of the Executive Council of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

Amrani Qandeel, a participant in the workshop from Egypt, said NGOs in the Middle East cannot support themselves. The minute the funding stops from the donors, the whole programme collapses, she added.

Princess Basma said the United Nations' main objective is to achieve peace and security and to stimulate development. Recent events in the region have proved that no peace can be achieved without development and no sustainable development can be attained without security and stability, she said.

The Princess called on governments and non-governmental organisations to help end illiteracy, improve the status of women and create a balance between needs and resources as well as stem poverty.

After the opening session Princess Basma chaired the first session which reviewed a working paper on the role of non-governmental organisations in helping vulnerable groups and discussed the status of those groups which live under the poverty line, namely, women and children and refugees.

Five papers will be presented, namely, "The Role of NGOs and Vulnerable Groups," "The Role of the U.N. in Humanitarian and Social Development," "Nature, Extent and Implications of Regional Transition and Conditions for Stability," "Humanitarian and Social Implications of Economic Investment for Vulnerable Groups" and "Social Changes and Vulnerable Groups in the Middle East: The Present and the Prospects for the Future."

## Criminal Court hears case of child molestation

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Criminal Court Saturday started hearing the case of a man accused of molesting a nine-year-old boy 12 times in Wadi Sir.

Majdi Yusef, a shop owner in Wadi Sir, pleaded innocent, to molesting Y. A., in his shop at least 12 times during the past three months, according to court documents.

During the first session, the court heard testimonies

from the boy and his father. The boy told the court that the suspect, Majdi, would take him inside his shop and molest him in the storage room, the attic or behind the counter in his shop. The man, in return, would give him candy or something to drink, the boy said.

The child's father Y.F., 39, told the court that his son informed him on Oct. 11, that he was being molested by the shop owner. He added that he went to Majdi's shop and

demanding that he accompany him to the police station where he filed a complaint against him.

Also on Saturday, the trial of a 22-year-old Sahab man accused of killing his married sister opened at the Criminal Court.

Suleiman Ismael, who pleaded not guilty, is charged with shooting and killing his sister Aysha I., 26, on July 25 in her house in Sahab, according to court documents.

The document said that his sister had, prior to her

marriage, an alleged affair with a married man. According to the court, her family discovered the relationship after she was married.

The victim and the married man recorded some of their encounters on video tapes, the court said. It said that tapes were discovered by the wife of the victim's lover, after she was married.

The charge sheet said that the wife, took the video tape to an Islamic judge to seek a divorce, and at the

same time "one video tape was left at the door of the defendant's house."

The defendant watched the video, said the charge sheet, lost his temper and shot his sister at least 10 times. The charge sheet said that Aysha's husband had knowledge of his wife's previous affair and that he had forgiven her.

Presiding Judge Abdul Rahman Tawfiq set Dec. 2, as a new date to hear the case.

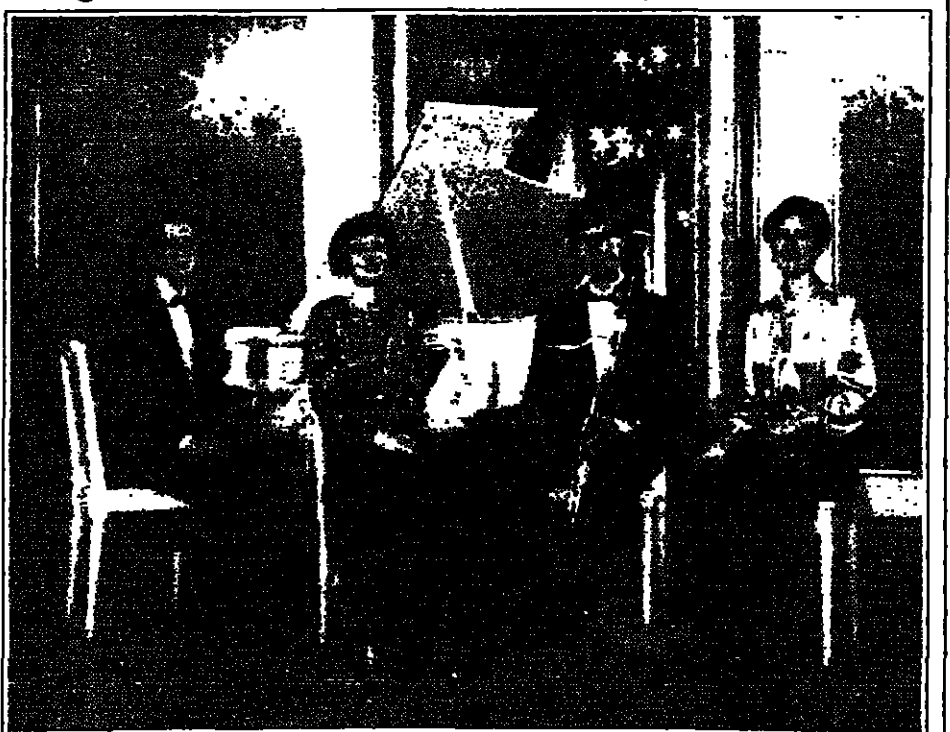
## In Modo Camerale Czech quartet to set the mood for chamber music

By Jean-Claude Elias  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Nothing could set the mood more appropriately than the name of the Czech ensemble who will perform on Sunday 19 Nov. at the Royal Cultural Centre "In Modo Camerale" (which means "in the mood for chamber music") will present works by Karel Stamit, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig Van Beethoven and Francis Poulenc.

The son of the celebrated Bohemian musician, Jan Wenzel Anton Stamit, who established the Mannheim School in the middle of the eighteenth century in Germany, Karel (Carl Phil) Stamit, also played with the renowned Mannheim orchestra from 1762 to 1770 as a violin virtuoso.

He has composed more than 78 symphonies. In Modo Camerale will play



Members of the In Modo Camerale chamber music quartet who will perform tonight at the Royal Cultural Centre

one of his trio sonatas. The quartet, Jana Brozkova, oboe, Ludmila Peterkova, clarinet, Jaroslav Kubita, bassoon and Daniel Wiesner, piano, will also perform Mozart's Divertimento in B flat major, Beethoven's Variations on the theme "La Ci darem la mano" and a Trio in B flat major.

More on the contemporary side, a trio by French composer Francis Poulenc (1899-1963) will conclude the evening.

The members of In Modo Camerale are all graduates from the Prague Conservatory and the Prague Academy of Music.

They often perform as soloists with leading orchestras and have already an impressive CD discography. They have won the prestigious Dusek-Mozart competition twice, in 1986 and 1986.

In Modo Camerale's concert is held under patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, and is organised by the National Music Conservatory, Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and the Czech Embassy in Amman.

CONCERT	
* Musical performance by the Czech Trio "In Modo Camerale" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8.00 p.m.	National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jebel Weibdeh.
FILM	
* "White Hunter, Black Heart" at the American Centre at 5.00 p.m.	
EXHIBITIONS	
* Annual fall exhibition "Khawater" at the Jordan River Designs, Jabal Amman (Tel. 613081/2) until Dec. 1.	
* "Pakistani Women of Substance in paintings and photographs" at the	
* Exhibition of stamps about the Royal Hashemite family (1916-1995) at the Royal Cultural Centre.	
* U.N. photo exhibition on the occasion of the U.N.'s 50th anniversary at Abdul Hameed Shoman Gallery, Jabal Amman through to Nov. 23.	
* Works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Art Gallery.	
* Works by Dodi Taba'a entitled "Variations Graphiques 93-95" at the French Cultural Centre.	

EMBER 19, 1995

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## Muslim rebels open fire near Kashmir's holiest mosque, 2 hurt

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Muslim militants opened fire near Kashmir's holiest Islamic shrine, the Hazratbal Mosque, Saturday to prevent rival guerrillas from entering the complex situated on the outskirts of this summer capital.

Police and witnesses said more than 30 men from Kashmir's leading separatist group, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), took up positions at bunkers and homes near the mosque to prevent the entry of a rival group.

"The JKLF men who were present in the houses around the Hazratbal prevented the renegade guerrillas from entering the shrine," said Reyaz Ahmad, a resident of the quarter which derives its name from the shrine.

"Both sides exchanged

fire for about 20 minutes before the guns fell silent," he said. "Then intermittent firing continued."

Professor Maqbool, spokesman of a splinter group of the JKLF which split recently, said his men had "repulsed the onslaught by renegade militants."

"But we are sure they will come again," he said, adding that two JKLF members had been injured in the firefight.

Muslim sources identified the rival group of rebels as men led by Kuka Parry, who JKLF and others group accuse of being an Indian agent and of trying to impede the rebels' fight against Indian rule.

Police officials, however, said the gunbattle started when they tried to cordon off the bus stand at Hazrat-

bal. "The cordon was later lifted," a spokesman said.

Kuka Parry has repeatedly threatened to take over Hazratbal, which Kashmiri Muslims believe houses hair from the beard of Prophet Mohammad.

He has also vowed to finish the powerful Hizbul Mujahideen rebel group.

Residents said senior police officials had been rushed to the area to prevent violence. Several residents fled their homes in panic and the nearby Kashmir University closed for the day.

On Sept. 29, dozens of JKLF men took over the white-marbled Hazratbal complex to foil a bid by Kuka Parry to storm the mosque and address the congregation.

Mr. Parry has vowed to

enter the shrine but Basharat Raza, head of the JKLF splinter group, has warned of a "fight to the finish" in such an event.

Muslim rebels occupied Hazratbal for 34 days in 1993, sparking an army siege. More than 12,000 people have died in the disputed northern state since 1989 when Muslim separatists stepped up a drive against Indian rule.

The Muslim rebel campaign in Kashmir has recently been dogged by infighting and factionalism with various groups demanding total independence, merger with Pakistan or a referendum for self-determination.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

## Seoul prosecutors launch new round of probe over scandal

SEOUL (R) — South Korea Saturday banned two former aides to disgraced ex-President Roh Tae-Woo from leaving the country over suspicions that they were involved in the retired army general's slush fund scandal.

The two were Kim Chong-In, Mr. Roh's former chief secretary for economic affairs, and Lee Won-Joe, a former member of parliament and one of Mr. Roh's confidants, a prosecution official said.

"The travel ban has been imposed at the request of prosecutors probing into the slush fund scandal," the prosecution official said in a telephone interview.

Mr. Roh confessed last month that he amassed \$654 million during his 1988-93 term in office, and kept \$242 million after he left.

He was arrested Thursday on charges of receiving more than \$300 million in bribes from 30 business moguls and is currently being held in a cell in the Seoul Detention Centre, south of Seoul.

The prosecution official quoted senior prosecutor Ahn Kang-Min, leading the probe into the scandal, as saying that the two former aides would be called in early next week. The offi-

cial said prosecutors were trying to find the two men.

The official also quoted Mr. Ahn as saying that a senior executive of Hyundai Engineering and Construction, a subsidiary of the giant Hyundai Group, and the president of Dongbu Engineering and Construction, a unit of the Dongbu Group, would be called in for questioning. He did not elaborate.

"Summons of senior executives of big business conglomerates will continue and the chairman of the conglomerates will be also re-summoned if necessary," Mr. Ahn was quoted as saying, apparently signalling the start of a fresh round of investigations into the case.

State prosecutors have questioned nearly 40 heads of the conglomerates, known as "chaebol," over whether they gave Mr. Roh money in return for lucrative contracts while the retired four-star general was in office.

Among the conglomerate chiefs were Chung Ju-Yung, founder of Hyundai, Dongbu Group Chairman Kim Joon-Ky, and the heads of other leading business groups.

The prosecution official said former Trade Minister Kim Jin-Ho, who is Mr.

Roh's relative by marriage and a ruling party lawmaker, would be summoned again soon for further questioning.

When he was first called in by prosecutors earlier this month, Mr. Kim confessed that he acted as a middleman to help the ex-president switch \$116.8 million from borrowed-name accounts into real-name accounts.

Mr. Roh became the first South Korean head of state, serving or retired, to be arrested. A survey released by a private pollster Saturday showed that more than 80 per cent of the 500 respondents named Mr. Roh as "the most loathsome politician" in the country.

Veteran opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung followed Mr. Roh with 13.8 per cent saying they hated him. Mr. Kim has admitted he received \$2.6 million from Mr. Roh around the 1992 presidential election won by President Kim Young-Sam.

Lee Hyun-Woo, Mr. Roh's former bodyguard who also ran the country's intelligence agency and later exposed Mr. Roh's slush fund, joined his one-time boss in prison Friday as prosecutors arrested him on several charges, including bribery.

## S. Korea says Japan's rice aid to North has hampered unification

OSAKA, Japan (AFP) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam Saturday hit at Japan for providing emergency rice aid to North Korea, saying the move had "hampered" Korean unification.

Mr. Kim, in other comments at a summit here with Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, said he believed that shortages in North Korea were so severe he questioned whether the isolated Stalinist state would survive the winter.

The South Korean leader complained that North Korea had skillfully driven a wedge between Seoul and Tokyo.

"I have the impression that Japan's rice aid to North Korea seems to have hampered the unification of South Korea and North Korea," Mr. Kim said on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum here.

"North Korea's request for rice appeared to interfere in relations between South Korea and Japan," he said, quoted by Japanese officials.

But, he added, "unification will in any case take place in the future. I would like Japan to be ready for it, and to consider that situation seriously."

Turning to North Korea's situation, Mr. Kim said, "the country is suffering from serious shortages of food and energy supplies. We are wondering if North Korea will be able to struggle through this winter."

Hit by a catastrophic winter harvest and heavy floods, North Korea appealed for emergency food aid to its declared capitalist adversaries.

Japan sent out 300,000 tonnes under an agreement in June, half of which was of free.

A second agreement was

signed on Oct. 3 in Beijing to provide an additional 200,000 tonnes, with the same very favourable payment terms as for the half of the June agreement: a 10-year grace period and repayment over 20 years at a rate of three per cent.

South Korea, meanwhile, has so far shipped out 150,000 tonnes of rice to North Korea under an agreement in June.

The rice issue, for South Korea, could become a valuable card, providing Seoul with a new channel of dialogue with Pyongyang as well as a potential economic lever.

According to North Korean officials who attended parallel negotiations with South Korea in Beijing in late Sept., 5.4 million people — one fifth of the country's population, have been affected by flooding, and losses are estimated at \$15 billion.

## Atlantis separates from Mir station

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (R) — Space shuttle Atlantis successfully separated from the Russian space station Mir at 3:16 a.m. (0816 GMT) Saturday after being linked to the station for three days.

Shortly after Atlantis separated from Mir, television pictures showed the huge shuttle very slowly dropping away from the Russian space station in a graceful space ballet.

After that, the shuttle made two giant loops around Mir — moving tail first — at a distance of

about 413 feet (125 metres). Atlantis' crew inspected and photographed Mir for an educational film.

Atlantis' voyage began with its launch Sunday from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. The shuttle, in a delicate manoeuvre, docked with Mir early Wednesday, and the combined crews of the shuttle and Mir spent three days together.

Atlantis' eight-day voyage is the second of seven planned trips to the Russian space station. The work done on the voyages is seen as preparatory to the con-

struction of an international space station to begin in 1997, NASA said.

Atlantis' crew installed a Russian-made docking module on Mir that all future shuttle flights will use to dock with the space station.

Installing the docking module — actually a 15-foot-long (5 metres) tunnel — was difficult because shuttle Commander Ken Cameron could not see the top of the tunnel during the final feet of the shuttle's approach.

## Italian government shaken over immigration

ROME (R) — The government of Prime Minister Lamberto Dini was shaken Saturday as the federalist Northern League mulled the possibility of pulling out of parliament over a controversial immigration decree.

The bold threat by the League to pull its 118 senators and deputies out of both houses of parliament could wreck the passage of the vital 1996 budget and unleash a political storm that could bring down the government.

"Government on the brink over immigration decree," ran a headline in Milan's Corriere Della Sera newspaper.

Milan's Il Giornale newspaper said League leader Umberto Bossi wanted to "expel" Dini from government just as his party wanted to expel illegal immigrants.

The tempest began Friday night when the League abandoned the Senate during a vote on the budget to protest against what they said were signals that the decree would be too soft.

The decree, passed by the cabinet Thursday, was due to be made public after President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro signed it.

As debate on the budget resumed Saturday in Rome without League senators, the league's self-styled "parliament of the north" was meeting in the northern town of Mantua to decide whether to pull its MPs from parliament.

A full-scale walkout would upset the fragile majority Mr. Dini's unelected technocrat government relies on, especially in the lower house. Centre-right parties said it could mean the end of the government, installed in January.

Parliament could technically continue lawmaking without the League as long as a legal quorum exists during sessions. The budget could still survive with help from the opposition Freedom Alliance of, former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

But political commentators said a withdrawal by the League would be unprecedented and create serious constitutional problems that could force early elections.

"These parliamentarians were elected to sit in parliament in Rome and if they don't the very credibility of parliament is at stake," one commentator said.

Mr. Dini, meanwhile, appealed to all political parties Saturday morning to get the deficit-cutting budget through parliament for the good of the country because the world's financial markets considered it vital for economic stability.

The Senate was due to approve the budget bill Sunday before passing it on to the Chamber of Deputies (lower house).



Members of a special anti-riot police unit take position in front of Athens' Polytechnic Institute after anarchists squatted in the building. Police clashed several times with anarchists during the annual protest march by students to mark the students uprising that led to the fall of the military dictatorship (AFP photo)

## Anarchist students, prison riot stretch Greek police

ATHENS (R) — Greek police strove to control both a prison revolt entering its fifth day and a riot by young anarchists hurling petrol bombs to mark the anniversary of a 1973 student uprising.

Scores of riot police were called from duty at the Korydallos Prison in the western outskirts of Athens to the centre of the Greek capital where youths barricaded themselves inside the Athens Polytechnic, wrecking the school.

Police said they arrested 13 youths. About 20 people choked by tear gas were rushed to hospital. Television showed a young man being beaten by police then being rushed off unconscious in an ambulance.

Lives are in danger. Public property is being destroyed. Every democratic principle is violated," the Socialist government said in a statement, slamming Polytechnic administrators for not allowing riot police into the school.

Greek universities are protected by a sanctuary law which leaves police intervention to their discretion.

The riots began when the masked youths threw stones and dozens of petrol bombs at riot police deployed around the Athens Polytechnic, site of a bloody 1973 uprising against Greece's 1967-74 military dictatorship.

The annual march to commemorate Nov. 17, the day when Greece's military dictators sent in tanks to crush the Polytechnic revolt, had earlier passed off peacefully.

At least 20 students died then, and many historians put the number much higher. The ruthless action stamped out whatever limited sympathy the junta still had with the public and the regime fell the following year.

Police were spread thin after days of rioting at the Korydallos Prison, where four people died since more than 1,000 inmates seized the maximum security jail Tuesday.

Inmates hanged a foreign prisoner and set his body ablaze Friday, the fourth confirmed death among the prisoners. At least 45 prisoners have been injured, either in fights or from drugs. Three Greek prisoners have died from drug overdoses.

Despite repeated government assurances that the revolt was ending, chaos has reigned. The prisoners have wrecked facilities, burned mattresses and bedding, seized drugs from the hospital and tried repeatedly to escape.

There has been a widespread settling of accounts with prisoners using screwdrivers and shards of glass as weapons. Numerous bloody brawls have erupted

between the Greek and foreign prisoners, especially the large group of Albanians.

"We're afraid the Albanians will attack us," shouted one Greek inmate. "They should take them out of here."

The revolt erupted when some inmates seized a guard during a failed escape attempt. More hostages were taken and the uprising spread. Three of the prison's four cell blocks are in revolt.

The inmates released all their hostages Thursday but still want a list of demands met, ranging from better food and less crowding to removing foreigners and drug addicts.

Under cover of darkness Thursday, hundreds of prisoners rushed the main exits. Police fired live rounds into the air and dozens of tear gas canisters to stop a mass breakout.

Prisoners made two more escape attempts Friday, the last when about 80 young prisoners made another breakout bid. Police drove them back by firing tear gas.

Korydallos Prison was designed to hold 400 inmates but now has more than 1,500. It has been criticised for lax security and since 1990 more than 150 prisoners have fled in five jailbreaks.

## Cambodia prince placed under house arrest for murder plot

PHNOM PENH (R) — The Cambodian government placed royalist member of parliament Prince Norodom Sirivudh under house arrest Saturday for alleged involvement in an assassination plot against Co-Prime Minister Hun Sen, officials said.

Prince Sirivudh, secretary general of the Funcinpec party and half-brother of King Norodom Sihanouk, told Reuters that Interior Minister You Hockry had asked him to leave the country but added that he had done no wrong and had refused.

"If he refuses to leave, he will be arrested," said National Police Chief Hok Lund, adding that a government investigation into an alleged plot to kill Hun Sen had implicated the former foreign minister.

"The government is discussing this matter," he said.

Information Ministry spokesman Sieng Lapresse said security measures outside Hun Sen's house were stepped up Friday night because of the plot rumours.

Witnesses saw at least five tanks and two armoured cars and scores of soldiers outside the premier's home in central Phnom Penh late Friday night.

"Due to new evidence gathered from the investigation, the competent authorities have taken preventive measures by issuing orders for the house arrest on His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sirivudh," the spokesman said.

He added that the prince would continue to be held "pending legal process by the National Assembly and by the concerned authorities in accordance with the con-

stitution and laws of the kingdom."

A senior Information Ministry official said that Prince Sirivudh's fate was being discussed by King Sihanouk and the king's son, First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Prince Ranariddh heads the Funcinpec party but insiders say he has been angered at his uncle's questioning of party and government policies.

Prince Sirivudh quit the cabinet last year and opposed the May expulsion of former finance minister, Sam Rainsy, from the party.

The short road leading past the prince's pink villa in Phnom Penh was closed off to vehicles and civilians with dozens of soldiers and police on guard.

A TV crew was forced to stop filming from a nearby roof and hand over the tape.

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## Diana to rule out divorce — TV host

LONDON (R) — A top American TV interviewer has claimed that Princess Diana will use a holy-anticipated television interview next week to rule out divorce from her husband Prince Charles.

But Britain's BBC Television, which is keeping the contents of Princess Diana's first solo interview a closely-guarded secret, said Saturday that American television networks had not been briefed about the programme.

Barbara Walters made her claim when she appeared on her ABC channel's late show Friday. ABC is reported to have paid \$1 million

to screen the interview.

"She says in this interview, by the way, that she does not want to divorce Charles," Ms. Walters said.

The BBC insisted that neither Ms. Walters nor ABC Television had been briefed in advance of the screening Monday evening.

"ABC has not been briefed. As we have said before, only eight people in the BBC have seen the programme and nobody else has been told what is in it," a spokeswoman said.

The BBC however declined to comment specifically on the no-divorce claim.

Princess Diana, 34, sepa-

rated from Prince Charles for almost three years, is expected to use the interview to speak frankly about her family, her life with Prince Charles and her future plans.

She went ahead with the interview without consulting Buckingham Palace or even her own official advisers, causing fury in the ranks of the royal family.

Much of the British press is portraying it as Princess Diana's act of revenge against Prince Charles, who admitted in a lengthy television documentary last year that he had been unfaithful to his wife.

## Mongolian police seek to sober up drunkards

ULAN BATOR (R) — Mongolian police have launched a blitz to clear the Asian country's streets of drunks, "sobering up" 65,600 of its citizens in the first 10 months of this year alone, the State Statistics Bulletin said. The number of drunks collected and sent to drying-out centres was 1.4 per cent up from a year earlier, it said.

Drunkness is blamed for much of the soaring crime in this landlocked, mainly pastoral country. The hardest drinkers roam the capital Ulan Bator, where 56.4 per cent of Mongolian drunks were picked up, the bulletin said.

## Man locked in freezer survives by running

BEIJING (AP) — A worker who was accidentally locked in a freezer overnight managed to survive by running in place until he dropped from exhaustion. The man was rescued by a day shift worker the following morning and is now recovering, although he suffered extreme frostbite on his hands and feet, the official newspaper China Daily said, quoting a report from Shanghai. The report did not provide further details of the incident, which occurred in Yucheng City in the eastern province Shandong.

## Menem has a secret son

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Argentine President Carlos Menem has a secret son, fathered 14 years ago when he was imprisoned by the former military regime, the boy's mother, a member of parliament for the ruling party, claimed in a television interview Thursday.

Martha Meza denied that either her political career or the home she owns were the product of presidential favours, and said she decided to disclose the closely guarded secret of Mr. Menem's other family, for the "psychological wellbeing of my son," Carlos Nair. There was no immediate reaction from Mr. Menem.

## Planet-Earth collision unlikely — scientists

BEIJING (R) — Chinese astronomers say planets will swing close to the Earth three times in the 21st century but none are likely to smash into our planet. Xinhua News Agency said Friday.

Astronomer Li Qibin and colleagues at the Beijing Observatory have released new findings that show two small planets will pass close to the Earth in the next century — Planet 4179 on Sept. 29, 2004 and Planet 2340 in 2069 and 2086, it said. But they will rush by swiftly and at their closest will be about one million kilometres from Earth, they said. In March 1997, people on Earth will be able to see with the naked eye the long tail of a comet, expected to be even brighter than halley's comet, they said.

## Westminster stress 'cuts MPs' sex drive'

LONDON (AFP) — British members of parliament are losing their sex drive, are drinking and smoking too much, and do not spend enough time with their families, according to a report quoted in the press here Saturday. Despite recently having their working hours reduced, MPs are suffering greater pressure of work and less job satisfaction than in 1992, when previous research was carried out, said the study by occupational therapist Ashley Weinberg of Manchester University.



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## Sri Lankan Tamil guerrillas shoot down cargo aircraft

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil guerrillas shot down a Sri Lankan military cargo aircraft Saturday and the rebels reinforced their stronghold in the north-eastern port of Jaffna for what residents said appeared to be a showdown with the army.

Two of three crew rescued by the navy from the downed Chinese-made Y8 died in hospital, the military said in a statement. Three others were missing at sea.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) shot down the aircraft, the largest in the armed forces' fleet, as it approached Palaly Air Force Base in the north of the Jaffna peninsula.

The rebels "approached the flightpath of the aircraft in two boats and fired using small arms", the military said.

State radio said Sea Tiger rebels attacked from 15 boats.

The Y8 crashed into the sea and the search for the three missing crew was continuing, the military said in a statement.

The aircraft, carrying barbed and concertina wire for roadblocks and no passengers, took off from Colombo's domestic Ratmalana Airport at 7 a.m. (0130 GMT) and was shot down an hour later about three kilometres north of Palaly, it said.

On consecutive days in April, the Tigers shot down two Avro transport aircraft at Palaly, killing 90 service-

men and showing for the first time that they had surface-to-air missiles.

In July, they brought down a Puccara ground-attack aircraft and in September, 75 servicemen heading for Palaly died when a Russian-made Antonov-32 transport aircraft, bought by Sri Lanka in July, crashed into the sea just north of Colombo. Bad weather was blamed for that crash.

One Asian diplomat said the latest attack showed the besieged rebels were getting desperate.

"The LTTE must have known that this was just a cargo plane," the diplomat said. "They must be getting a bit desperate. It's a matter of regaining some face."

Jaffna residents reaching the north-central town of Vavuniya told Reuters the LTTE were sending in cadres to Jaffna town as the air force continued to drop leaflets asking the rebels to surrender. "They are preparing for a big showdown with the troops," one said.

The armed forces are massed on the outskirts of Jaffna town a month after they launched Operation Riviresa, the biggest military offensive since the war started in 1983. More than 50,000 people have been killed in the war.

Troops set out from Palaly on Oct. 17, heading on two flanks for Jaffna town. Field officers believe the town has been liberally laced with mines and other booby traps and any further

advance is likely to be painstakingly slow, a senior military source said Saturday. Snipers were also a problem.

"The troops are consolidating now and they will be very slow and careful," he said. "What's the hurry?"

For once it seemed the military and the LTTE were in agreement. "The offensive to capture Jaffna is progressing at snail's pace," the Tigers said in a statement faxed to Reuters from London Saturday.

But the reason they gave was different — they said the military was struggling and suffering "severe casualties."

Friday, a landmine exploded under a fuel pump, killing one soldier and wounding another at Umpirai, outside Jaffna town, the military said.

Early Saturday, rebels tried to "infiltrate the defended area" at Iddakadu, killing two soldiers. "Ground troops saw terrorists withdrawing carrying their casualties," it said.

The military estimates 322 soldiers and more than 1,400 Tigers have been killed since Riviresa began.

Meanwhile women fighting on the side of the LTTE have come a long way in a decade of violence and are playing a key role in the battle for control over Jaffna peninsula.

The LTTE has deployed an unspecified number of women fighters to take on the advancing Sri Lankan

army on Jaffna peninsula, which has been ruled as a de facto state by the rebels over the past five years, military officials said.

"We are seeing an increasing number of women taking part in frontal assaults," said army spokesman Sarath Munasinghe. "They are as good as men and we don't underestimate them."

The LTTE has a separate women's wing, which has hundreds of members who have been toughened by years of combat experience against Indian and Sri Lankan troops as well as through intensive training.

LTTE videos show women, including girls as young as 13 years, taking part in face-to-face fighting with Sri Lankan troops. The women also specialise in dare-devil suicide missions.

Military officials say the women guerrillas are adept in the use of all kinds of weapons, are fearless and, like all LTTE cadres, wear cyanide capsules around their necks and bite them when faced with capture.

Akila, a former commander of the LTTE women's wing who was wanted for the 1991 assassination of former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi, was killed last month during the army push in Jaffna.

Young women began joining the ranks of Tamil guerrillas in the mid-1980s. The LTTE opened its doors to women in 1984, calling them "Freedom Birds."

## Chechenya heads for new clashes over election

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's rebel Chechenya region moved a step closer to a potentially explosive conflict when the Moscow-backed parliament gave the go-ahead Saturday for elections that separatists have vowed to disrupt.

"The Supreme Soviet of Chechenya passed a resolution today on holding the republic's leadership elections on Dec. 17," ITAR-TASS news agency said. The vote is scheduled for the same day as an election to the Russian parliament.

Chechen rebels, who see Russia as a foreign occupation power, immediately condemned the decision as illegal and provocative. Rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev said the conflict could spread beyond the boundaries of the southern region.

"If Moscow decides to hold elections here, I fear the situation that develops will have an impact on elections in Moscow and

Russia," he told reporters in Urus-Martan, a town just south of the capital Grozny. "I would not recommend provoking developments that could assume monumental proportions in a matter of hours," he said. "This tinderbox could explode at any moment."

Dudayev spokesman Movladi Udugov said the Supreme Soviet decision was illegal.

"It is absurd because the Supreme Soviet was dissolved in 1991 and, even if attempts are being made to revive it, its official term expired in spring 1995," he told Reuters by telephone.

Mr. Udugov also accused Russian forces of launching tank and artillery attacks in the past 24 hours on the town of Achkhoy-Martan, about 40 kilometres south-west of Grozny. Two civilians were killed and seven wounded, he said.

"Russian tanks, artillery and multiple-launch missile systems fired 46 times at

villages and Chechen positions," he said. "The blockade of Achkhoy-Martan is continuing."

TASS quoted the Russian military press centre in Grozny as saying five Russian troops had been wounded since Friday in attacks that were especially aggressive in Western Chechenya.

"Rebels entrenched on the western outskirts of Achkhoy-Martan poured heavy mortar fire on troops," it said. "There have been 37 attacks on federal troops."

A well-informed military source told TASS that rebels were preparing to step up hostilities at the beginning of winter.

Russia sent troops into Chechenya almost a year ago to crush separatists loyal to Dzhokhar Dudayev who declared the southern region independent in 1991.

Tens of thousands of people have since been killed and many more have fled

their homes.

Fighting subsided in June when a fragile truce was agreed, but peace talks were derailed last month when a bomb blast almost killed Russian military Commander Anatoly Romanov.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, in an interview with the Nezavisimaya Gazeta newspaper, said Moscow's military campaign should be "carried out to the end".

But Mr. Grachev, who has frequently voiced doubts about prospects for reaching a negotiated settlement, added that he supported parallel peace negotiations, although he was not optimistic about their success.

Mr. Dudayev, on the other hand, believed the conflict could be settled by high-level talks. "All questions can be resolved in 30 minutes of peaceful negotiations," he said.

## EU, U.S. to hold humanitarian aid summit

BRUSSELS (R) — The 15-nation European Union and the United States, which between them provide more than 90 per cent of world humanitarian aid, will hold a special meeting next month to combat what they called "donor fatigue".

With around 45 million refugees now aid-dependent, including \$4 billion channelled through the United Nations in 1994, donors were in danger of becoming overwhelmed and giving up the fight.

"We need a new awareness and effort to mobilise aid world-wide," EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Emma Bonino told a news conference in Brussels.

The meeting, to be held in Madrid on Dec. 14, will draw up guidelines to improve humanitarian aid to

present to an EU summit in the Spanish capital the following day. Spain holds the rotating EU presidency until the end of the year.

The aid meeting will also discuss ways to strengthen cooperation between EU, U.S. and U.N. and private aid donors.

EU aid policy tends to be more politically neutral than that of the United States, Ms. Bonino said, noting that U.S. help for ex-Yugoslavia was focused on Muslims in Bosnia whereas the EU gave support to all the republics, including Serbia.

Ms. Bonino said the scale of human emergencies had grown in recent years, creating new problems such as breakdown in public order and a decline in safety for aid workers.

"The humanitarian problem has completely

changed," Ms. Bonino said, noting that some refugee camps were like cities with more than 200,000 people.

Ms. Bonino announced two new aid initiatives for ex-Yugoslavia and for refugees from Rwanda and Burundi.

The EU will grant 110 million European currency units (\$148 million) aid to help 3.6 million refugees, of which 2.7 million in Bosnia, survive winter in camps in ex-Yugoslavia.

"It's a really dramatic situation," Ms. Bonino told a news conference. "There's a tragedy in the making this winter."

The EU has already given 1.1 billion ECUs (\$1.4 billion) in humanitarian aid with a further 500,000 ECUs (\$645,000) from member states covering all ex-Yugoslavia since the

conflict started more than three years ago.

The EU will grant 70 million ECUs (\$94 million) to help two million refugees from Rwanda and Burundi survive the next six months and assist their return home, Ms. Bonino added.

"The objective is to finance a series of projects to build confidence and help them return home," Ms. Bonino said.

Only 100 to 150 a day were returning from camps in Zaire and Tanzania, far below the target of 6,000 daily, a commission official said. Between 500,000 and a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus are estimated to have been killed by Hutu forces in a four-year civil war in Rwanda.

## Japan: U.S. admiral's remarks were 'unbelievable'

OSAKA, Japan (R) — Japan Saturday described remarks made by the commander of American forces in the Pacific about the Okinawa rape case as "unbelievable" and said his resignation was correct.

Asked about the remarks by Admiral Richard Macke, Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono told reporters: "That was totally unbelievable."

"I think Mr Macke did sort of a good job, but his remarks were unbelievable."

Tokyo joined Washington in damage control, saying it accepted that the comments by Adm. Macke did not reflect U.S. government policy.

Mr. Kono said he thought the U.S. had taken a "bold step" to defuse the controversy over the admiral's remarks.

Adm. Macke told reporters in Washington Friday that three U.S. servicemen accused of raping a 12-year-old schoolgirl on Okinawa in September had been "stupid" because they

could have used the money paid for their rental van to hire a prostitute.

He resigned hours later after issuing an apology.

The admiral's remarks were ill-timed and coincided with a chilling of U.S.-Japan ties over the rape furore.

The relationship has not been warmed either by President Bill Clinton's decision to skip the APEC summit in this western Japanese city because of the deadlock over the U.S. budget.

But Mr. Kono was careful to distance Mr. Clinton's no-show from the controversy over Adm. Macke's remarks. He said he did not think Mr. Clinton's absence would have any negative effect on ties.

Mr. Clinton told Japanese television reporters Friday that he meant "no disrespect" through his cancellation.

He said he was particularly concerned about the cancellation because he had intended to use the trip to voice his own outrage over the rape of the girl.

"On behalf of the American people, we want the Japanese people to know that we share their outrage and pain...It's a terrible thing," Mr. Clinton said.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said U.S. ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale telephoned Mr. Kono as soon as he learned of Adm. Macke's resignation.

Mr. Mondale said Adm. Macke's remarks ran counter to what the U.S. government believed in, and the commander was retiring to take the blame for the remarks, the officials said.

Adm. Macke, a 35-year navy veteran, said while apologising that his remarks were "the result of my frustration over the stupidity of this heinous and incomprehensible crime against the young lady."

The Okinawa case has prompted calls in Japan for cutting the 47,000 U.S. troops based in that country, more than half of them on Okinawa.

Mr. Clinton said in his Friday interview that he was open to changing the size and deployment of

U.S. forces in Japan but stressed there were "very compelling" reasons to keep the security ties linking the two nations.

The controversy began when Adm. Macke, speaking to reporters about the alleged rape, said: "I think that it was absolutely stupid. I have said several times: For the price they paid to rent the car, they could have had a girl."

One of the three men charged in the case has entered a guilty plea but the other two have denied taking part in the rape. The two who denied the rape have pleaded guilty to assault and to abducting the girl.

In response to questions that the furore in Okinawa was more a result of that island governor's aversion to the U.S. military presence than the rape itself, Adm. Macke said: "What we are seeing now isn't tied to the rape."

"What you're seeing now is a longstanding governor (Masahide) Ota's aversion to the U.S. presence in Okinawa."

## Dole stays above squabbling in party debate

ORLANDO (R) — U.S. Senate majority leader Bob Dole, protecting his position as Republican presidential frontrunner, Friday emerged largely unscathed from a televised debate with eight other White House candidates.

Sen. Dole arrived late to take part in the debate after engineering passage of a Senate bill to balance the budget in seven years.

The forum, broadcast by CNN, was held on the eve of a non-binding presidential preference poll seen as an important test of support and organisation in the race for the 1996 Republican presidential nomination.

Sen. Dole, along with all the other candidates except Lamar Alexander, Pat Buchanan and Alan Keyes, participated in the debate

from Washington via a satellite hookup. Mr. Alexander, Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Keyes were in an Orlando Auditorium with debate moderator Larry King.

Leading in public opinion polls by a wide margin, Sen. Dole stayed calm in an often lively debate while his opponents tried hard to make an impact on the audience of some 3,400 delegates and the country at large. With none of the others denting Sen. Dole's armour, the evening had to be seen as a success for him.

The one candidate to take a swipe at Sen. Dole was millionaire magazine publisher Steve Forbes, who accused him of voting for 16 tax increases over the past 14 years, costing every American family \$15,000.

"Many of the people who

are here tonight have been part of the problem, not the solution," Mr. Forbes declared.

Sen. Dole responded that he had voted against 30 tax increases and changed the focus of the discussion by repeatedly trumpeting his achievement of passing a balanced budget with \$245 billion of tax cuts.

"We have a Republican Congress for the first time in 40 years. That's why this year, it's going to be different. We're going to balance the budget in seven years because of the Republican Congress," he said.

He also won applause with tough rhetoric against President Bill Clinton, vowing to win the current budget impasse. "We're going to win this battle because the people are on our side."

"We're going to keep our promise to the people," he said.

To which former Tennessee Governor Alexander said: "I don't think we ought to give Congress merit badges for balancing the budget. That's their job. That's like giving a Boy Scout a merit badge for telling the truth."

The Orlando straw poll is the last major event on the campaign calendar before Republicans start choosing their nominee to challenge Mr. Clinton in state-by-state primaries and caucuses beginning next February.

Other participants in the debate were Texas Senator Phil Gramm, California representative Bob Dornan, Indiana Senator Richard Lugar and Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter.

## Troops kill 20 Hutus in Burundi before Carter visit

KIGALI (R) — Troops killed more than 20 members of the Hutu majority east of Burundi's capital days before a visit by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, diplomats and aid workers said Saturday.

Diplomats in Bujumbura contacted by Reuters by telephone from neighbouring Rwanda said the Hutus were killed when troops stormed their village in a three-day hunt for Hutu rebels until Friday.

Aid workers said troops entered Gasasara village on a hill overlooking Bujumbura Wednesday to search for Hutu rebels.

Western aid workers said they evacuated seven villagers including children with serious injuries from Gasasara and they feared the casualty toll from the operation would be higher.

U.N. officials said more

than 1,000 villagers displaced by the clampdown had fled Gasasara and took refuge in Bujumbura.

"There are villagers hiding in gardens and residential areas of Bujumbura. There are more people fleeing the area. The situation is very tense," said one official who declined to be identified.

Diplomats and aid workers said they believed the army was trying to clear the last few Hutu strongholds near the capital, dubbed "Tutsiville" after most Hutu civilians fled this year.

Mr. Carter and officials of his Atlanta-based Carter Centre are scheduled to arrive in Bujumbura Monday for talks on ways to end ethnic violence in Burundi before a conference in Cairo on Nov. 27.

More than 100,000 people have died in two years of

violence pitting the Tutsi-dominated Burundian army against Hutu rebels with civilians and refugees frequently caught in the middle.

Mr. Carter visits Rwanda Sunday for talks on ways to arrange the return of two million Hutus who fled Rwanda in fear of being killed in revenge for the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates last year by Hutu troops, militias and mobs.

Diplomats say Mr. Carter's bid to solve the twin crises has slim chances of success as polarisation is increasing in central Africa and relations between Rwanda and Zaire are at an all-time low.

The Carter Centre says the Cairo conference will be attended by the presidents of Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Zaire and Tan-

zania.

Zaire has said it will expel one million Rwandan refugees unless they return home voluntarily by the end of the year.

Tension between Burundi's army and Hutu President Sylvestre Ntibunganya has risen since the presidency accused troops of killing 253 Hutu villages in the troubled north last month.

Aid officials said they saw 103 fresh graves in one area but the Defence Ministry flatly denied any massacre took place.

Burundian officials say the army faces a new threat with rebels infiltrating into the south of the country from Tanzania in addition to the long-standing guerrilla problem in the north and northwest.

## Mandela asks U.S. to impose oil embargo on Nigeria

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African President Nelson Mandela said Saturday he had called for the United States to impose an oil embargo on Nigeria and had received a "positive" response from President Bill Clinton.

"I asked the United States to apply oil sanctions," Mr. Mandela told reporters at his Johannesburg home several hours after he spoke by telephone to Mr. Clinton over how to act against Nigeria following its execu-

tion of nine human rights activists last week.

Mr. Mandela, who said he also wanted China's support for a campaign against Nigeria, did not spell out Mr. Clinton's response. But asked whether he believed the United States and Britain would impose an oil embargo, he replied:

"I am not pessimistic given that President Clinton's response was a positive one. I did not pressure (British) Prime Minister (John) Major (during last

week's Commonwealth summit), but after speaking to President Clinton I am going to put a little bit of pressure on him (Major)."

"He (Clinton) has never been negative. He responded according to that tradition. I am sure he wants to do something," the president said.

Mr. Mandela said the West could bring Nigerian leader Sani Abacha "to his knees" if it imposed sweeping sanctions and he was confident Mr. Clinton

would act.

White House spokesman David Johnson, speaking to reporters in Washington after the Mandela-Clinton conversation, said the United States had not ruled out unilateral sanctions on oil, but believed unilateral action would not be effective.

Mr. Mandela said Africa was not in a position to bring the same kind of pressure as could countries with extensive trade relations with Nigeria.



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1971

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

## Positive signs

IF THE latest Israeli poll published Friday showing Prime Minister-designate Shimon Peres way ahead of his right-wing Likud rival Benjamin Netanyahu proves to be enduring, then the cause of peace in the Middle East is indeed strengthening in the aftermath of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. In the poll, Mr. Peres received 60 per cent support while Mr. Netanyahu obtained only 28 per cent. There are already many signs that the trend in favour of the Labour Party and its leader is growing. Last week, Mr. Peres was found to enjoy 54 per cent support from people questioned for a poll conducted by the Israeli daily Yediot Aharonot compared with 23 per cent for Mr. Netanyahu. Only three months ago, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Netanyahu were neck and neck in the polls.

There is an apparent big swing in support of Labour politics on peace in the region after the Likud became the target of increasing criticism accusing it of contributing to the hate campaign against the late Mr. Rabin. With this wide support, Mr. Peres is well poised to form his new government without the need for grand coalition with the Likud. Israeli President Ezer Weizman has already made his views known on the composition of the new government when he said that Israel needs a government that is "as broad as possible because the greater the support the more able it will be to take courageous decisions." On the basis of current trends in Israel, however, Mr. Peres would have no difficulty commanding a broad public support without the inclusion in his government of parties that are lukewarm or opposed to peace with the Palestinians and the Syrians. In any case, the next prime minister would have to be directly elected at the 1996 national elections. The composition of the new government and its performance from now until the next elections will determine the future fortunes of Mr. Peres, his Labour Party and indeed the whole peace process.

Whatever goes on the Arab side will either strengthen or weaken the chances of Mr. Peres over the critical months ahead. If there were tangible movement on the Syrian front and a peace accord can be successfully negotiated with Damascus in the near future, then Labour and its leadership would widen public support.

Meanwhile, the concerned Arab governments themselves need to galvanise sufficient support for their peace efforts. It now seems necessary to periodically gauge public opinion in the Arab World on the issue of regional peace with Israel so that we too can stay in tune with the pulse of the people on this very important matter.

At the end, however, what could make or break the fortunes of peace in the area is the extent of its fairness and legitimacy. While the Arab side can contribute to the strengthening of the forces of peace within Israel, Israel too can play a critical role in mobilising stronger Arab support by becoming more flexible on the remaining negotiating tracks. The Palestinians have a lot to go before they can savor peace and the Syrians and Lebanese have barely started the long road towards peace. All these remaining fronts await solid movement before the forces of peace can sigh with relief.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT Liamine Zeroual has been elected as president of Algeria, his countrymen expect him to keep his promises and live up to expectations, said a columnist in *Al Ra'i* Saturday. The Algerian people yearn to see their country stable once again, living in freedom, security and democracy and they expect their president to take speedy steps towards fulfilling their aspirations, said Mahmoud Rimawi. What is expected from Mr. Zeroual also is to pave the ground for parliamentary elections, which would enhance the foundations of democracy in the country, said the writer. To achieve this goal, said the writer, Mr. Zeroual is duty-bound to form a provisional government representing all factions and political groups to oversee the elections so that the people can be assured of the results and prevent any abuse of the democratic system. Mr. Zeroual has won 61 per cent of the votes while the moderate Islamist candidate Mahfouz Nahnah won 25.39 per cent and both results seem to be very reasonable and acceptable to the electorate, whose turnout was estimated at nearly 75 per cent, said the writer.

MOHAMMAD DAOUD, a columnist in *Al Dustour*, criticised the Islamic movement for suing the editor of *Al Bilad* for alleged defamation of Islam. While admitting that some weeklies have crossed the red line, we believe the Islamic movement could have published a counter article in reply to *Al Bilad's* reports or cartoon, or could have formally complained to the Jordan Press Association or the *Al Bilad* management demanding a halt to publication of material which could be regarded as anti-Islamic, said the writer. But by resorting to courts, the Islamic movement has opted for a practice which was exercised by the government against the local press and which the Islamists themselves had criticised as undemocratic, said the writer.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

## Why we stand to lose

IT IS only normal and expected for a small country, like Jordan, to be subjected to various kinds of conspiracies and external pressures. What is not normal or expected is to see Jordan adopting these conspiracies and pressures as if they are long time Jordanian objectives that we have waited too long to see.

When a certain foreign power wants us to behave in some specific way, it is only wise and prudent to show a measure of reservation in order to receive a price or obtain a consideration for behaving in the manner we are required to behave. Instead, we find some, from our own ranks, raise their voices demanding that we should go in the prescribed direction as if it was always a Jordanian objective.

This of course would weaken the position of Jordan, and deprive the country from the strength of bargaining and prevent it from reaping benefits.

Readers should note that so far I am not demanding the rejection of the foreign conspiracies or resisting the external pressures. That may be too much to realistically ask for. All that I aim at is to show some reluctance and hesitation, or at least to pretend to resist or, at bare minimum, keep our big mouths shut, until we get offered better conditions in return for submitting to pressures.

In this manner, we handled peace with Israel, which was sold to us by the victorious United States of America in the aftermath of the Gulf war. At the time, we rushed to announce that peace with Israel is after all a Jordanian objective for which we worked hard for 40 years and cannot wait any more. Thus we signed a peace treaty free of charge, while others who preceded us obtained a price. We know now that others who will follow us will also obtain a price.

In the same manner we are currently dealing with the

issue of confederation with the Palestinian people, which is recommended to us by Israel and blessed by the Americans, as a final solution to close the Palestinian file at the expense of Jordan. We immediately announced that Jordanians and Palestinians are, after all, one family. In other words we will accept and take the Palestinian people on board while Israel claims the Palestinian land, including Jerusalem, and tell us in advance that the River Jordan is its security and strategic border.

That is also how we are dealing with the idea of a Middle East market, advocated by Shimon Peres and promoted by American think-tanks in Washington and Harvard University. Instead of presenting our conditions to join in, and go on board, our response to the idea was unequivocal: the new Middle East is a Jordanian strategic objective. We should work hard to achieve it.

That is also the way we are handling the issue of refugees and displaced Palestinians, whom Israel would like to see integrated in the societies and the economies of the host countries, especially Jordan, and whom American President Clinton advised us in his speech in Parliament to absorb, and the World Bank submitted reports on how to transform their camps into permanent Jordanian towns and villages at a cost as little as \$300 million. Our response was simply to regularise the Palestinian camps. They are Jordanian citizens after all.

I fear that the free trade area between Jordan and Israel will soon become a Jordanian priority that Benolux-like arrangement between Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians may become a Jordanian not an American vision, and that the protection of intellectual property law will become an urgent Jordanian necessity, to protect Jordanian technological inventions and Jordanian authors from foreign piracy.

## Poland: Communist comeback?

By Gwynne Dyer

"WE WANT to face (President Lech) Walesa in the second round because of the symbolism," demanded Danuta Waniewski, campaign manager to ex-Communist presidential candidate Aleksander Kwasniewski. How sweet a triumph for Polish ex-Communists if the former shipyard electrician and Solidarity leader who destroyed Communist rule in Poland was directly defeated by their own man.

But that was back in early October, when Mr. Kwasniewski was leading Walesa by a margin of more than two-to-one. Danuta Waniewski got her wish, and the two men will face off directly in the second round of voting on Nov. 19. But Mr. Walesa — "I'm not afraid of anybody but God," he boasts — will probably win. This is one Communist comeback that won't happen.

When the first-round votes were actually counted in Poland on Nov. 5, Kwasniewski had only 35 per cent to Mr. Walesa's 33 per cent. Since Mr. Walesa will pick up most of the votes of the 15 other candidates who were eliminated in the first round, he is virtually certain to pull ahead of Kwasniewski in the round, he is virtually certain to pull ahead of Mr. Kwasniewski in the second round and win a second term as president.

This is remarkable, because almost all Poles are well aware that Lech Walesa is no more convincing as president of Poland than he would be as a ballerina. They have had years to watch him bluster, quarrel with everybody, mangle the Polish language, and generally behave like a wounded

bull in a China shop.

That's why his approval rating as president was down to an abysmal seven per cent by last spring: he was an embarrassment. He has not changed since then, but the situation has. Because if Mr. Walesa loses, the ex-Communists will control every leading position in the Polish state. Most Poles do believe their ex-Communists have reformed — but they don't trust them that much.

As in many other ex-Communist countries of Eastern Europe, the former Polish Communists (now called the Democratic Left Alliance) have already made a major political comeback, winning the parliamentary elections in 1993. Last May they also got their own man, Jozef Oleksy, into the prime ministership. If Mr. Kwasniewski got the presidency, it would be a clean sweep.

So, with some prodding from the powerful Catholic Church, many Poles have reluctantly decided that they would rather stick with the devil they know. In Walesa's hands, the presidency will simply be a mockery; Mr. Kwasniewski, they fear, could do real harm.

But the average voter is not worried about Mr. Kwasniewski bringing back the Communist police state or re-nationalising Polish industry. As in other Eastern European countries, the Polish ex-Communists haven't shown the slightest inclination to slow Poland's shift to a capitalist economy or to undermine its democracy in any way. The problem lies elsewhere.

By the twilight years of Communist rule in Poland

in the latter 80s, the once-savage police state had melted into what was known contemptuously by most ordinary Poles as the "Republic of Buddies." Ideology was dead, and the Communist Party was in the hands of cynical careerists who only saw party membership as a guarantee of good jobs and special privileges.

The buddies looked after one another, passing around the plum jobs in government, industry and the media among themselves and freezing less privileged Poles out. But they really got rich when the Communist state finally died and they "privatised" its assets into their own pockets.

A standard tactic in 1990-91, for example, was for the directors of state industries, Communists all, to set up private trading companies that bought the products of the industries they ran on credit and below cost. Then their trading company would reap huge profits by selling those products on the free market for full value — while the state-owned industry they managed quickly went bankrupt.

That's only phase one. Once bankruptcy was declared, the director would then offer to buy his bankrupt state firm for a song, using some of the profits from his corrupt trading company. Buddies in the Communist-controlled court system would facilitate this purchase in return for a little grease. Thereupon, the newly "privatised" industry would stage a miraculous recovery.

In the case of industries too moribund to be worth stealing, the procedure was simpler. The directors would solicit large loans for their firms from buddies in the state-owned banks (with kickbacks, of course). Then you just transferred the money into your personal account, declared the business bankrupt, and walked away from it.

Many thousands of Communist apparatchiks made fortunes by these methods in 1990-91. Indeed, most of Poland's new rich are former Communists. The looting subsidised in 1992, when the solidarity government took steps against it — but many Poles fear that it could re-emerge if Mr. Kwasniewski gains the presidency.

That's not Mr. Kwasniewski's pitch to the Polish public, of course. To former Communists who want to feel good about themselves and their past, he offers absolution (which is why his campaign manager felt defeating Mr. Walesa would be so symbolic).

To others, who are simply dissatisfied with the present, he projects a clean-cut image of youth (he's only 41, though he was a minister in last Communist government) efficiency and sophistication that contrasts sharply with Mr. Walesa's pot-belly, grand-fatherly mustache, and sometimes incoherent bellicosity.

If it were a beauty contest, Mr. Kwasniewski would win hands down. But he is going to lose. "Let's Choose the Future," his campaign's vivid slogan, implies that the past can now be forgotten. "There can be no future without remembering the past," replies Lech Walesa, and a majority of the 40 million Poles understand exactly what he means.

Another facet of this issue comes to mind; the general subject of public funds and the manner in which they are spent... sometimes even squandered. Let us take ourselves back to Saturday, Sept. 16, the day His Majesty was awarded the prestigious Prince of Asturias Concord Prize. Apart from symbolising the recognition of the King's life-long efforts towards peace and humanitarian issues, the prize included a \$40,000 cash gift. In what highlights His Majesty's tremendously well-established tradition of civic duty, sharing and giving, he decided to invest the entirety of this significant sum of money in education, by donating it to a school. Education in Jordan has always been a mainstay for King Hussein's attention, focus and support, not to mention the many benefits that spring therefrom: skills, talents, increased

## Anti-discrimination laws

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST a person because of the region he/she comes from, his/her sex, his/her religion, his/her age, his/her weight, or even his/her colour of hair is harmful to society if it decreases the welfare of society as a whole. In other words, to discriminate is not inherently bad, however, it becomes destructive when it negatively affects the performance of a person or a group. Simply put, society should not care if you like a certain village and its people or not. What society should care about, and should hold the discrimination responsible for, is the decreased welfare of this group due to discrimination. The welfare of a society is a sum total of its individual's well-being; undermining a part of the whole will cause the system to malfunction.

The grouping of people into strata, sets and groups assumes that individuals are identical within the group. This is simply not true: people are not identical. People are complex, dynamic, ever-changing and resourceful. To say that they can be lumped together by a single characteristic is foolish, lazy and arrogant. The wise old men and women of Jordan have always said "not all your fingers are the same" meaning that two brothers born in the same household are not the same. So why does this ignorant and insane logic of "us" and "them" persist and permeate every aspect of our lives? Because it is an economic rent-seeking act: i.e., has financial rewards. The very fact that you or someone you care about benefits from discrimination is, on its own, an excuse to continue discriminating, you have no incentive not to. This is the dilemma of discrimination in Jordan: Once a myopically rational person believes that a benefit will be reaped from sexism, racism, or regionalism, he protects the practice and becomes its greatest advocate. Moreover, all the suppressor has to do is to subdue the oppressed group and once the group's development is retarded, the discriminator's injustice becomes not only justified but necessary for efficient market outcomes.

I demonstrate the above with an example: Let us assume that if a group becomes stamped or named "round-heads" it becomes, by the labelling, unworthy of government jobs and the remainder of society are named "square-heads." If government jobs are scarce, then the "round-heads" do not get these jobs and the "square-heads" will get the opportunity to better serve their country and get paid for doing it. Therefore, if one of the "square-heads" happens to be in a responsible public sector position he will tend to promote and hire the people he knows as "square-heads" — his kinfolds and then they will hire their relatives and so forth (the extended family concept has

thrived in Jordan through nepotism which translates to "Wasta" the vehicle upon which regionalism has been promoted). What remains at the end of the day is left to the "round-heads." Thus the kinfolds of the "square-heads" reap the benefits of the monopolising public sector jobs.

How does the "round-heads" group counter the monopoly of the "square-heads"? They, out of self-preservation, counter by naming the "square-heads" as inferior and go into the non-government sector. In time, the "round-heads" eventually control the private sector and insist on hiring only their kinfolds and relatives (nepotism and "Wasta" come to work here as well). Thus, society is polarised along the demarcation of "round-heads" and "square-heads." Thus, the public and private sectors add to their problems yet another problem which is lack of trust and respect between sectors. Who hurts from this? Everyone, especially those of the so-called "round-heads" whose skills and talents require of them to become employed in the public sector and those from the "square-heads" who likewise desire to enter the sector their group does not control, the private sector. These exceptionally talented workers become the focus of the discrimination and antagonism of the counter groups in their work environments. Therefore, they will tend to perform below their potential and if they stay in their jobs, they may not do as well as they would have had the work environment been less narrow-minded. Or, the very talented may end up changing professions and switching sectors to be within their own comfort zones: the reverse of "the right man/woman for the right job" occurs. Their performance in either case will be less than optimal, and that is how the fibre of a market economy is shrunk and shredded.

People will continue to discriminate because it is economically beneficial to their group. Discrimination allows the group additional work opportunities as it shrinks the labour pool from which employees for a certain job are drawn. Discrimination is exclusion: that is, the pie is shared by the few, not the many. Discrimination means hypocrisy, and the cultural, social and economic impoverishment of our society.

A selfish shortsightedly rational person (one who recognises only short-term personal benefits) will sacrifice the long-run well-being of the nation to maximise his/her personal short-term gains. Because of this maximisation process, the government must introduce laws that ban discrimination and enhance the effectiveness of these laws by banning nepotism which is the vehicle by which regional discrimination has flourished. Yes, the time is ripe for these civilised laws. Let's not wait too long.

## LETTERS

### The King's feats of humanity

To the Editor:

THREE CHEERS to His Majesty King Hussein for ordering the removal of the statue of his likeness in the public square outside the Prime Ministry on the 4th Circle. All those who know what His Majesty is really about must also know that he is above the "culture of icon-building" and certainly above such things as statues.

If we were to list the numerous personal qualities of His Majesty, we would, without doubt, find ourselves drafting a list of encyclopaedic proportions. Suffice it to say, however, that the King stands ever-tall in our minds and hearts; far taller and mightier than the lustre of bronze can ever depict. There is certainly no need for the erection of a bronze figure to remind us of that. We leave such matters to some of our neighbouring Arab countries which tend to deify their leaders. We in Jordan prefer simply to love our leader rather than deify him; to respect rather than fear; to voice our affection rather than spew up rhetoric. When a country and a people are so fortunate to have as their leader someone of the stature and qualities of King Hussein, then there is no need for dogma, rhetoric or demagoguery.

I have no doubt in my mind that those parties responsible for the conception and commissioning of the said statue acted out of deep devotion and admiration for our beloved Monarch. They had even planned to unveil it upon the King's return from

Aqaba following his 60th birthday on Nov. 14. I am certain they acted in the best of faith and with the best of intentions. However, one would add at this point that they were nonetheless somewhat "out of touch" with His Majesty's perception of the notions of personal imagery and that of self-aggrandisement.

We know for a fact that the latter simply has no place in the King's credo, whereas the former (i.e. personal imagery) vis-a-vis His Majesty pertains not to icon-building, but to an acknowledgment by citizens of Jordan that he is, always has been and forever will be "a man on their side": A man born to serve his people. That is surely not too much to ask, nor does it require too much reflective thinking to be convincing.

Another facet of this issue comes to mind; the general subject of public funds and the manner in which they are spent... sometimes even squandered. Let us take ourselves back to Saturday, Sept. 16, the day His Majesty was awarded the prestigious Prince of Asturias Concord Prize. Apart from symbolising the recognition of the King's life-long efforts towards peace and humanitarian issues, the prize included a \$40,000 cash gift. In what highlights His Majesty's tremendously well-established tradition of civic duty, sharing and giving, he decided to invest the entirety of this significant sum of money in education, by donating it to a school. Education in Jordan has always been a mainstay for King Hussein's attention, focus and support, not to mention the many benefits that spring therefrom: skills, talents, increased

societal awareness and responsibility, etc. One has heard that a roughly equivalent sum of money was spent on the said statue. One ponders therefore whether that sum wouldn't have been better invested in education as well, following His Majesty's lead... or in some other equally worthy cause! Taxpayers' money should benefit taxpayers!

As for statues, there resides a statue of King Hussein in the heart and conscience of every loyal Jordanian; a statue of deep affection and respect. The experience of having King Hussein as our leader has engrained our lives and has been touching right down to the soul. And much as we are familiar with his human qualities, he still — after four decades — manages to catch us off guard and astound us with remarkable feats of humanity, gentleness, farsightedness, and wise judgement. I know I speak for the vast majority of Jordanians when I pay tribute to this great and gentle humanitarian; King Hussein. His is a legacy that will never dull with time.

It is legacy that is truly dignified and pragmatic, practical and spiritual, applicable yet sophisticated and far-reaching! It is a legacy of singularly unique affection between a leader and his people. There is no exaggeration when His Majesty describes our entity here as "our larger Jordanian family."

Mahmoud Izziddin Al Mufri,  
Jabal Amman,  
Amman.



# Amnesty International to convene Morocco seminar

RABAT (R) — Morocco and on Saturday it had invited Amnesty International to give a seminar on human rights in the country which the London-based group has criticised in the past.

"We invited senior members of Amnesty International to hold a seminar on ways of teaching human rights principles in Moroccan schools in future," Minister of Human Rights Mohamed Ziyane told Reuters.

The seminar, which will be held at Rabat Institute of Judicial Studies on Dec. 24, "is the first of its kind in Morocco and a proof of close cooperation between Moroccan government and Amnesty International," Mr. Ziyane said.

"Teaching human rights principles in Morocco is a sincere and credible long-term project," he said.

The amnesty delegation is expected to confer with Moroccan Prime Minister Abdul Latif Filali and the ministers of human rights, justice and interior on the situation of human rights in the country, an official source said.

Last year, King Hassan II had ordered more than 400 political prisoners in a move seen as an attempt to improve Morocco's image abroad.

Amnesty International welcomed prisoner releases which it described as "a milestone for Morocco in the process of redressing the injustice of past unfair trials." But the group said it "remained concerned that other political prisoners also convicted in unfair trials, including prisoners of conscience remain imprisoned."

The Ministry of Human Rights has already presented a list of 87 "presumed political" detainees for an amnesty to the official Council Consultatif des Droits de l'Homme (CCDH). Mr. Ziyane said.

The CCDH, which was set up by King Hassan in 1993 to supervise "the respect" of human rights in the country, gave no reply yet.

Moroccan human rights activists expect the visit of the Amnesty International delegation next month will lead to the opening of a chapter of the organisation in Morocco.

# Turkish court upholds Dec. 24 as election date

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's constitutional court on Saturday dismissed a bid by members of parliament to block early elections set for Dec. 24, court chairman Yekta Gunog Ozden said.

The final decision on the date, however, lies with the high board of elections.

"The decision of the constitutional court has been sent to the high board of elections and to parliament," Mr. Ozden told reporters.

As part of its ruling, the court cancelled a part of the new election law that would have created constituencywide constituencies for 100 new members of parliament.

Almost 100 deputies, many from the main opposition Motherland Party (ANAP), challenged the election law largely on the basis there was insufficient time to prepare for the Dec. 24 vote.

Conservative Prime Minister Tansu Ciller was forced into the elections, which under Turkish law must be held by Oct. 1996 at the latest, after her cumbersome right-left coalition collapsed in September.

# 'Constructive criticism welcome'

(Continued from page 1)

their country and their leader, presenting objective printed matter to the readers and abiding by His Majesty King Hussein's directives.

The prime minister, who was accompanied by his deputies Abdul Rauf Rawabdeh and Khaled Karaki as well as the speakers of Parliament and other officials including Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi, toured the new facility.

The printing press and the new building cost JD 5 million.

The new electronic equipment can print up to 64 pages in colour and produce 60,000 copies per hour.

Mr. Kayed presented to Sharif Zeid a coloured portrait of King Hussein on the occasion of the opening of the new facility which was held as part of the country's celebration of King Hussein's 60th birthday.

# Zeroual victory raises hopes

(Continued from page 1)

won legitimacy that would allow him some political freedom but he still faced difficult problems.

"What is urgently required from the president is to restore security. What is the road to security? will be a dialogue with the Islamic Salvation Front and focus on sources of tension."

The country slid into civil strife in January 1992 when the authorities declared null and void general elections the FIS, then legal, was poised to win.

Past talks between the authorities and detained FIS leaders have come to nothing. FIS was barred from the election and armed groups threatened to kill voters.

Thousands of civilians and police celebrated in Algiers for 12 hours on Friday after the announcement that Mr. Zeroual had won.

Convoys of cars flying Algerian flags and displaying pictures of the president circled the capital's streets as police unleashed celebratory machinegun fire into the sky.

But in a sombre reminder of the country's problem, the celebrations died down shortly before a midnight curfew went into effect.

A massive security blanket imposed for the presidential elections was lifted Saturday.

Soldiers who had set up camp at schools on Monday left them on Friday evening.

However, police officers remained to guard the approaches to the schools while city officials took away the polling booths and tidied the classrooms which had become makeshift polling stations.

Roadblocks imposed Thursday and maintained on Friday were lifted early Saturday morning. However, an elite police squad nicknamed the "ninjas" continued their patrols in their four wheel drive vehicles which were decked out in flags.

As life returned to normal residents went out shopping Saturday at the markets which had been shut for the last two days. Other measures implemented by the authorities — the suspension of sporting events and the restricted movement of heavy goods vehicles — were also dropped early Saturday.

# 'Riyadh bombers will be crucified'

(Continued from page 1)

dismissed as seditious the recent allegations of the U.S. ambassador in Riyadh, and said Iran has no connection whatsoever with Monday's bomb blast in the Saudi capital, the official Iranian news agency (IRNA) reported.

U.S. Ambassador Raymond Mabus hinted on Wednesday that foreign powers may have been behind the explosion which sent shock waves through the kingdom.

"Iraq denounced as 'irresponsible' U.S. statements implicating Baghdad."

"In trying to accuse Iraq," U.S. ambassador Mabus "is only avoiding his own responsibilities and trying to influ-

# Ignore those ink-stained ingrates: Journalism lives

By Richard Harwood

WASHINGTON — It is difficult to tell from the work of analysts whether journalism as we know it in the United States is in a period of terminal decline or is merely going through one of its cyclical periods of malaise and loss of verve.

Newspapers and the communications industry in general are economically sound. Profits are healthy; the labour force is highly educated, skilled and generally competent. The time devoted to news on radio and television and the space in newspapers and magazines is greater than ever before.

The "autonomy" of journalists in pursuing their craft and their freedom to interpret, explain and comment on the news is unparalleled in U.S. history. Technology, while somewhat threatening to traditionalists such as myself, has expanded our reach around the world to a point where "information overload" is a common complaint. Nevertheless, there is an apocalyptic tone to much of the commentary and speculation about the present health and future prospects for the news business.

Michael Crichton, author of "Jurassic Park" and other thrillers, says: "The American media produce a product of very poor quality. Its information is not reliable; it has too much chrome and glitz; its doors rattle; it breaks down almost immediately, and it's sold without warranty. It's flash but it's basically junk. So people have begun to stop buying it."

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, dean of the Annenberg School of Communications at the University of Pennsylvania, believes "journalists are now creating the coverage that is going to lead to their own destruction."

Howard Kurtz, media critic of The Washington Post, has written that "the smell of death permeates the newspaper business these days."

These quotations are from a recent essay by Ellen Hume, a senior fellow in the Annenberg Washington Programme of Northwest-

ern University. They are used to validate her concerns about the quality of contemporary journalism, the alienation of the audience and the erosion by technology of journalists' status, prestige and influence in public affairs.

An important concern, she writes, is "the apparently endless flow of scandals and feeding frenzies (in the press) that has damaged, rather than enhanced, journalism's credibility." This is the theme of an essay by Paul Starobin in the Columbia Journalism Review. Its title is "Generation of Vipers," a short-hand description of those who have created a "journalism rooted in a deep and abiding cynicism, a reflexive suspicion of face-value explanations, an inclination to ascribe ignoble motives" to people in public life.

Cynicism, "in its most corrosive form, can produce journalists who have a diminished view of their profession and of themselves," he wrote. "Worse, it can damage readers and viewers and, thus, democracy."

Malaise is the subject of a piece in the American Journalism Review by Carl Sessions Stepp of the University of Maryland. The title is "The Thrill Is Gone — The Era of Newspaper Angst." The good old days have vanished, he writes — the days when the journalist mattered, idealism prevailed and people paid attention to what he had to say.

There are three threads to such critiques. The first is that in the search for profits, today's news corporations no longer value "good" journalism and have therefore imposed hurtful financial constraints on their newsmen. The evidence for this indictment is thin. It is true that in the salad days of the 1970s and '80s, when profit margins of 20 per cent to 30 per cent were common, editors were able to greatly expand newsroom budgets and staffs and to raise salaries significantly.

With the recession of the early '90s, there was a lot of budget tightening. At some papers — a minority — journalists lost their jobs.

Other papers cut back on the space available for news and took a more puritanical view of expense account lunches.

But taking that into account, the resources available for the coverage of news in 1995 are far greater than in any other era in the history of the American newspaper. Benjamin Bradlee recalls in his autobiography that when he became the editor of The Washington Post in 1966, he had a budget of \$4 million and a staff of 303. There were only a handful of foreign and domestic bureaus. When he retired in 1991, the staff had more than doubled; 24 foreign bureaus and a half-dozen domestic bureaus had been created, and the newsroom budget had reached more than \$60 million a year and has since risen to about \$70 million.

Newsrooms at other large newspapers enjoyed similar largesse. On a smaller scale, so did smaller newspapers in such big chains as Gannett, which spends more on news gathering today than ever before.

A second cause for angst in newsrooms has been increasing competition from other media, including the new computer-generated on-line services. This process has been going on since the invention of radio and television. But newspapers survived and prospered and are likely to be beneficiaries of the new forms of communication that are coming along.

The third indictment is that the quality of contemporary journalism has been corrupted by "tabloidism," excessive cynicism and negativism towards institutions of all kinds. That problem cannot be traced to new technology or to the corporation of the news business. Journalists continue to control the content and tone of the news we get. If they are filled with angst, self-pity and disappointment about the work of journalism and if the thrill and excitement have vanished, they might test the thrill and excitement of selling shoes.

The Washington Post.

# Saudi coin trove, blue diamond fail to find buyers

By Robert Evans  
Reuters

GENEVA — More than one million Saudi coins, retrieved last year from a sunken U.S. vessel after half a century under the Arabian Sea, failed to attract any bids at auction on Thursday, Sotheby's said.

Despite active bidding, a deep blue 26.34 carat unmounted diamond, which had been expected to fetch a world record price of \$12 million, fell short of its minimum or reserve price and went unsold.

But Sotheby's said its sale

of major jewels on Thursday had totalled 60.75 million Swiss francs (\$53.76 million), the second highest ever after a November 1993 auction when 100 million Swiss francs (then \$70 million) worth of gems were sold.

"We are very pleased, it was a very successful sale," Simon de Pury, chairman of Sotheby's Europe, told a news conference.

A 7.37 carat purplish pink diamond ring, made by Cartier around 1925, was sold for 6.8 million Swiss francs (\$6.04 million) including the buyer's commission — a new world record

per carat for a pink diamond, according to the auction house.

"It is by far the highest price ever paid per carat for a pink diamond — it almost doubles the world record," said David Bennett, director of Sotheby's Jewellery Department.

The buyer's name was not announced, but dealers in the room speculated that it was someone in the Far East, where coloured diamonds are extremely sought after.

Mr. Bennett conducted both the gem sale and auction of the U.S.-minted Saudi coins, which Sotheby's had said could fetch \$20 million.

"The coins were a complete shot in the dark. Nobody had ever attempted to offer 1.3 million coins before," Mr. Bennett said.

"Unfortunately, we were not able to find anybody to step up and buy them as a single lot. There had been approaches before the sale to buy groups of coins. I expect the owners will negotiate sales maybe in parts afterwards," Mr. Bennett added.

The coins, less than half of which have been recovered from the wreck some 200 kilometres off Oman, were part of a secret shipment from the United

States to Saudi Arabia in 1944.

Fearing allied oil supplies would run out, Washington made a secret deal with then Saudi King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud to ensure increased output from his country's wells despite a fierce Nazi effort to swing Riyadh to their side.

The coins, all silver one-rial pieces, were minted in Philadelphia and were intended for workers at the Saudi wells who refused on religious grounds to accept paper money.

They were loaded into the hold of the U.S.S. John Barry, which then set sail

for the Gulf, ostensibly carrying only military equipment.

But after a safe voyage across the Atlantic and through the Mediterranean and Red Sea, it was sunk by a German submarine — taking the coins to the bottom although 66 of the 68 crew and naval guards on board were rescued.

The coins were lifted after an operation lasting five years and salvage work at a depth of 2,620 metres.

The owners, an anonymous group of investors, had authorised the sale of the coins as one lot rather than individually.

# Egypt queen's tomb revives 3,000-year-old love

By Miral Fahmy  
Reuters

LUXOR, Egypt — Ramses II, one of ancient Egypt's most powerful rulers, loved his wife Nefertari with a passion. Three thousand years later, the world will finally see how much.

Under the scorching sands of Luxor's Valley of the Queens, the tomb which Ramses built for his queen as a final token of his love will be opened to the public on Nov. 4 for the first time since its discovery in 1904.

"This tomb is really the most fascinating in the west bank of Luxor, or even the whole of Egypt," said Mohammad El Soghayer, head of the Luxor branch of the Supreme Council for Antiquities.

"It was obviously performed by the most skilled artists in the time of

Ramses II who built this royal monument because of his great love for Nefertari. He wanted her to have the best tomb possible," he added.

But floods, rock salt crystals and grave robbers nearly foiled the 19th dynasty Pharaoh's attempts to immortalise his beloved.

The magnificent crypt with its 430 square metres of some of the finest painting ever produced by Egyptian civilisation was almost completely destroyed even before Italian Egyptologist Ernesto Schiaparelli found it.

"The tomb was so badly damaged that we did not know how to begin to restore it," Mr. Soghayer said.

"It was followed out by salt which penetrated through the limestone walls like nails and felled the stucco paintings. The floods also damaged it severely. It

was already under a metre of mud when it was discovered."

The water had caused the salt in the rock to crystallise and jut out of the walls through the painted plaster which cracked into thousands of pieces.

Years of consultation and \$3 million from the U.S.-based Getty Conservation Institute later, restoration work began on the tomb in 1986.

An international team of archaeologists and even biologists worked for four years to prevent the walls from absorbing more water, piecing together the mural jigsaw based on photos taken by Schiaparelli that showed the paintings before they were severely damaged.

Each fragment was carefully dusted and sprayed with a fixative chemical and the result, according to

antiquities inspector Fathy Yassin, is magnificent.

"It's just beautiful," he sighs looking around the tomb's antechamber with rapture. "Just look at Nefertari's dresses, that smile. She looks even better than the goddesses."

Images of a smiling Nefertari grace almost every wall of the crypt's two main chambers. Mr. Yassin says the rich colours and delicate lines of the painting indicate how highly Ramses esteemed his wife and wanted the gods to do the same.

Dressed in diaphanous white gowns and adorned by golden jewelry, the queen — whose name means the most beautiful beauty — holds hands with the divine messenger Horus and, is smiled at by the goddess Isis. She offers sacrificial feasts to the head deities and consorts with

them.

Her name in Hieroglyphics is always accompanied by the phrases "the beloved of the gods" and "the great wife."

But inside the looted burial chamber which was filled with her rose granite sarcophagus, Nefertari's party-like disposition towards death becomes more serious with the artist replacing the fashionable clothes and seductive smile with more sombre gear.

Mr. Soghayer said the opening of the tomb was delayed until 1995 to make sure the facilities would hold.

"We've been testing the effects of humidity and human breath on the tomb to see how well it would stand daily wear and tear. So now we're only letting in 150 people per day," he said.

Little is known about Nefertari before she swept Ramses II off his feet. She

was already his wife when he became pharaoh in 1304 BC and his ardour spawned several temples which she shared with other queens and goddesses.

Her greatest honour was in the temple at Abu Simpel which she shared with the goddess of love Hathor and where she is depicted as many times as her husband.

After the temple's dedication to her in 1280 BC, Nefertari disappears from the history books and Ramses, his arrogance and glory immortalised in the shelly poem "Ozmandiyyus," marries again.

"Not one of his wives is mentioned as often as Nefertari. Not one of them was ever looked at as being more than just a routine queen. But Nefertari was special and like the Taj Mahal in India, the tomb shows just how special she was," Mr. Yassin said.

# PNA cabinet to meet in Jenin

(Continued from page 1)

omy) accords to register their names ... to get their polling cards," it said.

"This does not mean a change in the PFLP's position on the Oslo accords or the elections to an autonomy council."

The Syrian-based PFLP along with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) is fiercely opposed to the PLO's autonomy deals with Israel, under which the Palestinians will stage their first ever general elections on Jan. 20.

A Palestinian source said the PFLP was still debating whether to boycott the poll and would make a final decision at a central committee meeting soon.

The PNA began to compile electoral lists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip a week ago. Voters will elect an 82-seat autonomy council and, in a separate poll, a president of the executive.

A senior aide of Arafat joined the hardline groups in calling for a boycott of the elections.

Farouk Kaddoum, head of PLO's Political Department, called for the boycott in a joint statement with DFLP leader Nayef Hawatmeh.

"Following lengthy talks in Damascus, Hawatmeh and Kaddoum call upon all

# Rabin security officers had flawed records

(Continued from page 1)

announced. Yitzhak Rabin was also at the site and heavily insulted by the crowd," Mr. Shahal told army radio.

"The police cordon around the prime minister, whom I was accompanying, then pushed back the crowd and among them was Yigal Amir, preventing him from taking action," he said.

Six Israelis were killed in the Ramat Gan suicide bus bombing on July 24 claimed by the Palestinian militant group, Hamas.

Mr. Shahal said that Amir had been planning the assassination for two years as a means to sabotage the peace process.

The self-confessed killer tried at least three other times this year to kill the premier, according to state television.

Israeli television said Friday Avishai Raviv, head of the Jewish extremist group Eyal, which included Mr. Rabin's assassin, is a double agent for government security.

"Raviv's codename in Shin Bet is 'chameleon'," said television journalist Amnon Abramovitch.

Raviv was unaware of the assassin's intentions, did not inform his employers or he was a double agent who decided not to tell Shin Bet, Abramovitch said.

"These three scenarios are possible," he said.

Raviv, 27, was freed Wednesday but placed under house arrest for seven days in connection with the assassination.

Rabbi Benny Eilon charged Thursday that Shin Bet set up, trained and financed the extremist right-wing group.

Eyal was drawn up and developed by the Shin Bet. I have good reason to believe that," said Mr. Eilon, a rabbi at a Talmudic school in Beit Orot, on the Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem.

"The Shin Bet not only knew who the members of Eyal were, but they trained them and financed them," he told state radio.

But the prime minister's spokeswoman Aliza Goren said he was talking nonsense.

Eyal is an offshoot of the anti-Arab Kach movement which was banned in Israel after the February 1994 Hebron mosque massacre when a settler killed at least 30 Muslims at prayer.

Seven suspects, including Amir, are still in detention as part of the investigations into the murder following the arrest on Wednesday of Amir's former girlfriend.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister has sent condolences to the widow of Mr. Rabin, the leader of a delegation of American Jews that visited

the kingdom said on Friday.

Asked to confirm an Israeli newspaper report Prince Saud Al Faisal Saud asked him to convey the condolences to Leah Rabin, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League. Abraham Foxman, told Reuters: "That's right. The Saudi foreign minister sent condolences."

Mr. Foxman was in Israel leading an ADL delegation that had just visited Saudi Arabia.

Israel and Saudi Arabia do not have diplomatic ties but there has been a distinct thawing in much of the Arab World towards Israel since it began peace talks four years ago with the Palestinians, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

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# Hopes grow for Bosnia deal

(Continued from page 1)

transformed by a final peace agreement.

"At the central government level we (Muslims) could not expect to have both the prime minister and foreign minister because the Croats want one of those positions," Mr. Ganic said.

"In terms of the substance of government I think we will be losing out in this new structure. Bosnia will not have a classical government at the republic level. Most of the functions will be shifted to the (Muslim-Croat) federation."

Mr. Sacirbey, formerly Bosnia's representative at the United Nations, did not say what if any future role he would have in the Bosnian government, but said he would formally hand in his resignation Saturday.

And in a first major clue as to the future of Sarajevo under the U.S.-brokered

deal, Mr. Sacirbey said the city would remain divided, split up between different administrative areas, despite attempts by his government to ensure that the Bosnian capital was reunited.

Mr. Sacirbey also said the deal being put by the United States would likely see the Serbs keep a large swathe of territory in the north of the country linking Serbia proper to Serb-held lands in western Bosnia.

In exchange, the Bosnian government would get a corridor to the besieged Muslim-held eastern enclave of Gorazde.

The proposal has angered the Bosnian Croats and the president of the Muslim-Croat federation, Bosnian Croat Kresimir Zubak, was also expected to resign because of his dissatisfaction.

Mr. Zubak's departure might be problematic, government officials in Sarajevo said.



# Riyadh blast may hurt five-year Saudi plan

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A deadly bomb attack against U.S. military offices in Riyadh could hurt Saudi Arabia's five-year development plan by scaring off potential investors, Gulf economists said Saturday.

Though Saudi authorities sought to play down Monday's blast, experts said they believed it showed growing discontent within the opposition seeking to take advantage of an economic slowdown and reform-related price hikes.

"An explosion like this in the middle of the capital and the middle of the day could be a message to businessmen outside Saudi Arabia that the internal situation is not totally under control," a Gulf-based expert said.

"Fears by investors could ease in time but the occurrence of similar incidents will have a damaging effect on

capital inflow. This in turn will affect the five-year plan as it relies heavily on private investment," he added.

"There are also fears of attacks on foreign institutions in the kingdom and this poses another threat to the economy as they already have large investments there," the expert pointed out.

Saudi Arabia's 1995-1999 plan, announced this year, envisages an initial investment of 15.5 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) rising to 19 per cent later.

According to the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting, Saudi Arabia will need at least 472 billion Saudi riyals (\$125.8 billion) in investment through the plan to ensure economic recovery.

Nearly 40 per cent of the funds is forecast to come from the local and foreign

private sector.

The kingdom, the world's leading oil power, has agreed with the World Bank to encourage investment, mainly in the industrial sector, to lessen reliance on oil exports.

"Any shortage in private investment will have to be made up by the government, which is already suffering from cash problems due to low oil prices," a Riyadh-based economist told AFP.

"This means there will be more borrowing and another burden on the economy. Otherwise the plan could fall short of achieving its objectives," he said.

The sixth development plan dubbed a reform scheme is the most radical in Saudi Arabia's history, and was preceded by the appointment of reform-minded ministers in a major reshuffle ordered by King Fahd.

It aims for a deficit-free

budget and an annual growth of 3.8 per cent in constant prices, far higher than growth rates in the previous plan.

Riyadh set such ambitious objectives although it forecast spending of \$40 billion a year, much lower than in previous years.

It was apparently banking on capital inflow into its restructured economy, a rise in petrol prices and an increase in exports of petrochemicals and other non-oil products.

Experts said the growth targets could not be attained if the investment targets were not achieved. They noted growth was forecast at below one per cent in 1995 despite an improvement in crude prices over 1994.

"Oil prices are expected to remain stable in the near future as the Saudis themselves say. With the sixth development plan projecting

low spending, the deficit could be slashed but this could be at the expense of the economy in the absence of enough investment by the private sector," an economist said.

"The private sector has the potential to spearhead economic development in Saudi Arabia but it remains to be known what turn the recent events will take. Anyone would love to invest in such an oil superpower and large consumer market as Saudi Arabia but stability remains a crucial factor," he added.

Addressing a weekly cabinet meeting hours after Monday's blast, King Fahd sought to assure Saudis the domestic economy remained strong despite low oil prices and the budget shortfall was slashed to two per cent of the GDP in the first half of 1995 from nine per cent in 1994.

# China accepts U.S. WTO plan, U.S. official says

OSAKA, Japan (R) — China has accepted a U.S. "road map" outlining what Beijing needs to do in order to join the newly established World Trade Organisation (WTO), a senior U.S. official said Saturday.

The "road map" was presented to China last week by the United States and charts a series of measures that it must take to overhaul its trade regime and conform with WTO standards.

"It is very clear that the Chinese have not had the opportunity to study the (road map) paper in detail," the official said after three hours of talks between U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor and Chinese Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Minister Wu Yi.

"But they have accepted it as the basis for accession to the WTO," he said. "China took the road map very seriously."

The 30-page document details how China can bring its trade regime "in compliance with international norms" in order to accede to the world trade body established earlier this year.

Beijing has said it wants to join the global trade forum, set up in January, as a developing nation, but Washington insisted that China's economy is too big to allow it to join on the favourable terms granted poorer nations.

meeting here, where the group's leaders are set to adopt a blueprint for achieving their goal of regional free trade in the next century.

The talks between Mr. Kantor and Mr. Wu, which also included bilateral issues, were "positive, direct, very constructive," the first U.S. official said.

He said discussions of bilateral matters — including a U.S. demand that Beijing step up its enforcement of last year's pact on intellectual property rights protection — also had a "very positive" tone.

But he added, "overall, we have a difficult row to hoe."

"My general impression is that the Chinese are willing to move forward," he said.

China has not told the United States what liberalisation steps Beijing plans to unveil on Sunday, when all 18 APEC members are expected to announce initial "downpayments" on the APEC trade liberalisation process.

A European diplomat said earlier Saturday that China would unveil an economic liberalisation package at APEC aimed at winning U.S. support for its entry into the WTO.

The diplomat said the package might include tariff cuts and an easing of restrictions on capital flows.

"It looks like quite an enticing package," the diplomat said. He said he did not have exact details of the package but quoted Chinese officials as saying that they hoped the package would be enough to gain U.S. backing for Beijing's bid to win WTO membership.

# APEC sees regional economy expanding 20% within five years

OSAKA, Japan (AFP) — The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum has unveiled its first medium-term outlook, projecting an average real annual growth rate of around 3.5 per cent over the next five years.

"In this scenario, the economy of the APEC region as a whole is projected to grow by a cumulative 20 per cent over the period," said the group's economic committee, formed last year and currently chaired by Canada.

The 18 members already account for half the world's output, led by the United States and Japan followed by

China, Canada, South Korea, Mexico, Australia, Taiwan and Indonesia. Combined gross national product was twice that of the European Union (EU) at \$13.3 trillion in 1993.

Growth among the industrialised members is expected to climb from 2.1 per cent annually around the beginning of the decade to 2.9 per cent towards the end.

Developing members "are expected to enjoy continued high growth" although their furious pace of economic expansion is forecast to slow from an average 6.9 per cent annually to 6.2 per cent, the

committee's annual report said.

"Industrialised economies which had low growth in the early 1990s expect to see a strengthening in their average rates of growth in the medium-term. On the other hand, the developing economies which have exhibited fairly high growth expect to maintain these relatively high growth rates," the report said.

"Inflation is, in general, expected to be held in check," the report added.

"Overall, these medium-term economic outlooks project a

general continuation of strong growth performance into the future."

Over the longer term, APEC's economic committee warned of several problems including the ageing of society, lower domestic savings rates and limited scope for improving education and the quality of the workforce.

And as technology advances in developing economies, total factor productivity — the growth in production efficiency which is estimated to account for about a third of East Asia's economic growth — will slow down.

"When viewed in the medium-term, however, there is enough potential to sustain the strong growth performance in the region," the outlook said.

The report, coordinated by Japan's Economic Planning Agency, said last year's agreement by APEC leaders in Bogor to liberalise trade and investment over the next 25 years was crucial for maintaining economic growth.

"In the context of the APEC region, the most important contribution to increased competition comes from the deepening of interdependence, led by trade and investment," the medium-term outlook said.

"In this sense, implementation of the Bogor declaration and the realisation of free and open trade and investment in the APEC region is of vital importance to the sustained economic growth of the region," it added.

The report identified four main challenges for sustaining economic expansion including the seizure of growth opportunities such as broadening markets and introducing competition.

It also highlighted the need to secure growth potential by reforming financial systems, developing human resources and promoting technology transfers and development.

The other two challenges were identified as establishing the foundations of future growth — by broadening

infrastructure and promoting smaller businesses, for example — and securing a stable macroeconomic environment.

"A stable environment is also desirable in terms of implementing structural policies," the outlook said.

"Accordingly, it is necessary to carry out macroeconomic policies from a medium-term perspective. Such macroeconomic policy management will also contribute by enhancing policy credibility."

APEC groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

**Save water!**  
**Every drop counts...**

# UAE expects to join GATT before end of year

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) expects to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) before the end of 1995 after final differences are resolved, officials have said.

A ministerial committee charged with the GATT file discussed final measures which will qualify the UAE to become a full member of the Geneva-based GATT, which is now called the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

"We hope to finish all procedures to join GATT before the expiry of the deadline this year," the minister of state for financial and industrial

affairs, Ahmad Al Tayar, told journalists.

He did not elaborate but said they had reached what he called a general concept on customs tariffs and services.

"There is a full understanding by the key economic partners of the UAE on regulations concerning investment, services and capital transfer," he said, in reference to such partners as Japan, Europe and the United States.

The UAE has officially approved its application to join GATT.

But full membership has been blocked by disagreements with the world group

over restrictions on foreign investment and services such as banking, and subsidies to citizens in farming and other sectors.

Under UAE laws, foreign investors are allowed to own a maximum 49 per cent of any project while authorities have stopped issuing licences for new foreign banks on the grounds that the oil-rich Gulf country is already overbanked.

An agreement signed by more than 120 countries in Morocco last year creating WTO stipulated the creation of open borders in trade and services, and phasing out high subsidies to ensure fair market competition.

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Glasbergen

**JUMBLE** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LEDER  
AFMEL  
ENIAMA  
TINIVE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THE

Saturday's Jumble: STUNG YOUTH LIKELY DUPLEX  
Answer: How the busy salesman felt — TIED UP IN KNOTS

**THE Daily Crossword** by Albert J. Klaus

ACROSS

- Uncovered
- Present
- Where to get cash
- Too bad!
- Hinder
- Simba
- Freddie the Freeloader
- K-P connection
- Bikini part
- Deciduous tree
- Narrow connecting parts
- Peel
- Artist Rivera
- Hint
- Court judgment
- Hats
- Assns.
- Joker
- Jeune
- Concise
- Scarlett's home
- Impudence
- "Citizen"
- Remained
- International agreements
- Container
- "Abdul the Bulbul"
- Cinders
- Perhaps
- Goldsmith's "The of Wakefield"
- A Gardner
- She: Fr.
- "Church Lady"
- Benign
- Make reparation
- Layers
- Hesitation sounds
- Mailed
- Atop

DOWN

- Cutting remarks
- Vigilant
- Detection device
- Before tee
- Retained
- Kitchen end
- Requests for more goods
- Sea eagle
- Assent without proof
- "Dorf"
- Fiar
- Pa. neighbor
- Integers: abbr.
- Ruined
- Court dividers
- Chilled
- Swallow
- Landed property
- Wounds
- Concern
- Mild oath
- Compressed package
- Hibernia
- "The Crying Comedian"
- Weaken
- Thrashes
- Patella's place
- Coronet
- Surrounds closely
- Shelter
- Happening
- Final authority
- Actress Ryan
- Healing plant
- Hep to
- Lean
- Hole-in-one
- "Kapital" (Marx)
- Greek letter

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

OMEN EDGAR OBEY  
POLE LORNE RODE  
ARLO BREED ELAL  
LEANTO WALL LAMP  
ROBINSON GRIEBES  
APAGE TITHE RAE  
TENN LICIT GARR  
ERA BONED SLING  
SALLOW RESPONSE  
ISBA SPEW  
NORTHERN REWASH  
OMIT AROMA OGLE  
ROLL MORAY REAR  
MOLE SWAPS MEMO

**Peanuts**

HEY, MARCIE, DO YOU HAVE A ROUGH OR EVEN VAGUE IDEA WHAT OUR HOMEWORK IS FOR TOMORROW?

SIR, I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT OUR HOMEWORK IS FOR TOMORROW...

MARCIE, DO YOU HAVE A ROUGH OR EVEN VAGUE IDEA HOW ANNOYING YOU ARE?

**Andy Capp**

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN HERE BEFORE, DEAR

IT'S MY FIRST VISIT, IN FACT. IT'S MY FIRST VISIT INSIDE ANY PUB

FASCINATIN'

**Mutt'n' Jeff**

WE'LL NEVER GET ACROSS THIS STREET WITH ALL THIS TRAFFIC!

LET'S GET A HITCH UP TOWN FURTHER MAYBE WE CAN CROSS THERE!

YESSIR, GENTS, HOP IN!

HONK HONK

HONK HONK

THIS IS ANDY CAPP. HE THINKS HE'S WHAT A VERY YOUNG LASS SHOULD KNOW

# HOROSCOPE

**FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1995**

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Morning boredom can be dispelled by the appearance of good friends and fellow associates and you can have a fine time together.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Avoid that self-engrossed fellow associate today and be with the persons you admire and have a good time together for you both to be prosperous.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Look for more interesting activities and forget dull duties which can await your attention and perk up your spirit for the better.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Enjoy pleasures today with your mate and forget the amusements you have been planning later tonight to have with others.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Get your health improved early this morning since later in the evening you can be with partners and get much accomplished. Study modern enterprises.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Be careful and avoid an early morning accident today and then you can plan career activities for several weeks ahead.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Try not to disturb your loved ones in any way in the morning today since later in the day and this evening you can all enjoy amusements together. Show thoughtfulness.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Be gentle with any close associates in the morning today and later this evening you can have fun at home with your loved ones. Evening is best for entertaining.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) A personal anxiety could cause you to make some errors, so postpone reaching decisions at this time and get good advice from close friends.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Avoid that demanding friend in the morning today, then later tonight plan how to make repairs to your property in order to make it beautiful.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) A home affair requires time and tact from you in the morning today, but after lunch, you can go after what you desire and get it.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Stay away from individuals whose ideas are radically different to your own and you will avoid disagreements. Do something special for mate.

Birdstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye



# Turkey signs \$1.3b power plant credit deals

ANKARA (R) — Turkey signed agreements on Saturday with five foreign finance institutions and 44 banks for loans totalling 1.85 billion marks (\$1.33 billion) to build a power plant and an irrigation dam.

"Turkey's energy needs are rising every passing year... we welcome the financial agreement of this project," Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said at a ceremony attended by Turkish ministers and officials from credit institutions.

She said Birecik, the fourth such plant on the Euphrates River as part of a gigantic \$32-billion power and irrigation project known as GAP, was the first deal to be carried out under a scheme known as build-operate-transfer (BOT).

The scheme envisages that the plant be operated for 15 years by the builder Birecik Company and later transferred to Turkey's state power utility TEAS.

The company will sell the power to be produced to TEAS on a price indexed to the German mark until it transfers operational rights to TEAS.

"From now on, big investments can be made in Turkey under the build-operate-transfer model," Ms. Ciller said.

Turkish Energy Minister Sinasi Altinler told the audience Turkey's power demand would reach 130.4 billion kilowatt-hours (KWH) in 2000 from 78.3 billion KWH in 1994.

"The BOT model creates resources for such big power projects," he said.

Together with the credits, the company, a Turkey-registered multi-national partnership set up to build the Birecik power plant and dam in southeast Turkey, will have a total 2.262 billion marks (\$1.62 billion) to start off the construction work, its general manager Yuksek Onaran earlier said.

With the deals Birecik obtained 585.37 million marks from Germany's Hermes, 298.5 million marks from France's COFACE, 261.49 million marks from Belgium Dacroire and 243.73 million marks from Austria's OKB export credit agencies.

It also secured a loan of 464.42 million marks from an international consortium of 44 banks. The terms of the facilities were not known.

The plant, which has an established capacity of 672 megawatts, will produce 2.5 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity a year and irrigate 70,000 hectares (17,300 acres) of land in the south-eastern region of Gaziantep.

TEAS holds the highest stake in the Birecik company with 30 per cent.

The other shareholders are Turkish Gama Endustri with 18 per cent, German Holzmann Anlagen 16.9 per cent, Austria's Strabag Osterreich 8.4 per cent, French GEC Alstom ACEC 6.8 per cent, Belgian Cegelec ACEC 3.1 per cent, French Cegelec 3.1

per cent, German Verbund-Plan 4.3 per cent and Sulzer-Hydro 3.7 per cent, French GEC Alstom 3.7 per cent and Turkish TGT two per cent.

The plant, to be built near the southeastern city of Sanliurfa, is envisaged to be completed within 60 months after the construction begins, originally planned to start when the financing accords are signed.

The construction work will employ some 2,000 people in Turkey's most economically backward region and about 150 people will work at the plant after it becomes operational.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 18/11/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PSC	280	61955	220.250	220.250
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	7750	34265	4.430	4.430
YAMUTPUL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1881	4515	2.380	2.400
THE JORDAN POSTAL BANK	7602	33619	4.400	4.370
JORDAN BANKING BANK	184	429	2.380	2.370
JORDAN GULF BANK	20480	22527	1.120	1.100
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	1006	3600	3.800	3.800
JORDAN COMMERCIAL BANK	878	3038	3.520	3.450
BUSINESS BANK	1780	759	2.350	2.320
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1129	4022	3.440	3.580
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	3099	2885	1.940	1.930
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	14750	23315	1.600	1.580
<b>BANKS SECTOR</b>	<b>60249</b>	<b>198625</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 187.49</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.554</b>
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	55231	87404	1.500	1.520
JORDAN FRESH PRODUCE / ALRAI	100	985	9.790	9.850
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1500	4800	3.200	3.200
UNITED TRAD DEVELOPMENT CORP.	2500	2305	1.020	990
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>	<b>59404</b>	<b>96168</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 124.02</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.112</b>
ALFARAFER CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	2000	24300	1.200	1.200
THE JORDAN PETROLEUM FACTORIES	6901	74874	1.400	1.370
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINING	151	630	2.970	2.950
THE ARAB PETROLEUM	1405	6790	4.900	4.850
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	492	4489	9.200	9.110
THE JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	760	670	1.400	1.340
THE JORDAN MOBILE WIRE	250	1875	7.500	7.500
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	1234	5416	4.500	4.400
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	86	504	6.000	5.970
JORDAN DAIRY	500	1210	2.450	2.420
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	2000	3500	1.770	1.750
RAIFA INDUSTRIES	250	558	2.250	2.230
DAN AL DAKA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	100	805	8.000	8.000
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	1000	4720	4.720	4.630
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	62100	39805	6.400	6.300
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	9050	21212	1.360	1.340
OPTIONAL INDUSTRIES	1800	1164	1.990	1.980
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	13358	22649	1.690	1.670
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	400	1120	2.800	2.800
JORDAN SUPPLY-CHEMICALS	3150	1024	1.000	1.000
UNIVERSAL MOBILE INDUSTRIES	400	1196	2.980	2.970
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	3210	5771	1.840	1.790
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	6000	8392	1.420	1.400
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	27500	29985	1.350	1.310
UNION CHEMICAL & VACUUMABLE GIL INDUSTRIES	2748	9401	1.940	1.920
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>166646</b>	<b>230908</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 119.82</b>	<b>CHANGE: -1.017</b>
<b>NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET</b>	<b>17024</b>	<b>17024</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 154.22</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.654</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>286401</b>	<b>533781</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 154.22</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.654</b>
<b>VOLUME TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>194858</b>		

## Japan's graduates face bleak job future

TOKYO (AFP) — Almost one in three Japanese students about to graduate has still not found a job, the highest level since the end of World War II and a result of the depressed economic climate, according to education ministry figures published Tuesday.

A total of 230,000 students due to receive their diplomas in March next year are still looking for work in a country where it is customary for future graduates to have secured the promise of a job in the preceding summer, or autumn at the latest.

The ministry said 69.8 per cent of university students had found a job by Oct. 1, a drop of 3.2 per cent compared with last year's already low figures.

The ministry, cited by Kyodo news agency, said it illustrated the persistence of the "ice age," a phrase used to describe the difficulties facing Japan's youths on the job front.

The figures represent the fourth consecutive yearly drop. But it is the first time the level has fallen below 70 per cent since the end of the war.

Hardest hit, as last year, are girls. Only 61 per cent have found a job compared with 73.9 per cent of boys.

The ministry obtained its statistics in a survey of 62 universities.

# **Financial Markets** in co-operation with **Cairo Amman Bank**

## **U.S. Dollar in International Markets**

Currency	New York Close Date: 18/11/95	New York Close Date: 17/11/95
Sterling Pound*	1.5529	1.5433
Deutsche Mark	1.4065	1.4073
Swiss Franc	1.1583	1.1585
French Franc	4.8555	4.8483
Japanese Yen	102.13	102.15
European Currency Unit	1.3028	1.3003

\* ECU Per £1:  
= European Currency Unit

Date: 18/11/1995

Currency	1 MTN	3 MTNS	6 MTNS	12 MTNS
U.S. Dollar	5.56	5.52	5.50	5.43
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.49	6.43	6.37
Deutsche Mark	3.75	3.68	3.68	3.68
Swiss Franc	1.75	1.75	1.68	1.62
French Franc	5.37	5.30	5.37	5.12
Japanese Yen	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.15
European Currency Unit	5.43	5.43	5.43	5.43

Unit: 100 tons for account excluding U.S. Dollar: 1,000,000 or equivalent

## **Precious Metals**

Date: 18/11/1995

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	377.00	7.50	Silver	5.36	0.100

\* Per Gram

## **Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin**

Date: 18/11/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7080	0.7100
Sterling Pound	1.18125	1.1842
Deutsche Mark	0.5019	0.5054
Swiss Franc	0.6212	0.6243
French Franc	0.1458	0.1465
Japanese Yen*	0.0050	0.0055
Dutch Guilder	0.4493	0.4515
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000
Italian Lira*	0.0444	0.0446
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

\* Per 100

## **Other Currencies**

Date: 18/11/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
Baharini Dinar	1.1570	1.1740
Lebanese Lira*	0.04565	0.046375
Saudi Riyal	0.1815	0.1848
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3070	2.3070
Qatari Riyal	0.1932	0.1965
Egyptian Pound	0.2100	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.1330	1.1410
UAE Dirham	0.1922	0.1953
Greek Drachma*	0.2775	0.3085
Cypriot Pound	1.5375	1.5945

## JORDAN MARKETPLACE

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stone of November Tiger's Eye



## Cleveland wins first game

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Cleveland finally won one. Dan Majerle scored 21 points and Terrell Brandon 19 as the Cleveland Cavaliers became the last NBA team to get a win this season, a 114-82 pounding of the Philadelphia 76ers on Friday.

Danny Ferry scored 10 points in the third quarter as the Cavs outscored the Sixers 27-10 and avoided their worst start since the 1984-85 season, when they opened with nine straight losses. This year's Cavaliers lost their first seven games.

"We did everything right at the same time," Cleveland coach Mike Fratello said. "Some nights we shoot well and don't defend well, some nights it's just the opposite. Some nights we do all that and we don't rebound."

"Tonight we had a complete game. We shot well, we defended well, we got out on the open floor, scored in transition — that was the complete package."

Sharon Wright scored 17 points to lead the Sixers, who have lost three straight games, and 17 of 18 to the Cavaliers.

Six Cleveland players scored in double figures, including rookie Bobby Surin, who finished with a career-high 17 points.

The Cavs made 14-of-23 three-pointers (61 per cent), including 5-of-8 by Majerle.

"We needed this in a big way," Majerle said. "Everybody shot well, we were confident from the start and we played 48 minutes of basketball."

In Toronto, rookie Damon Stoudamire scored 20 points and handed out a career-high 13 assists as the expansion Raptors snapped a seven-game losing streak with a 114-96 rout of the hapless Minnesota Timberwolves.

Tracy Murray scored 19 points and Oliver Miller added 18 as the Raptors posted just their second win of the season and their first since the season-opener.

Minnesota dropped its fourth straight.

In Denver, Patrick Ewing scored 20 points and John Starks added 18 as the New York Knicks wrapped up their three-game road trip at 2-1 with a 103-94 victory over the Nuggets.

The Nuggets, who fell to 1-7, are in last place in the Midwest Division, a half-game behind the 1-6 Timberwolves.

Reggie Williams led the Nuggets with 27 points.

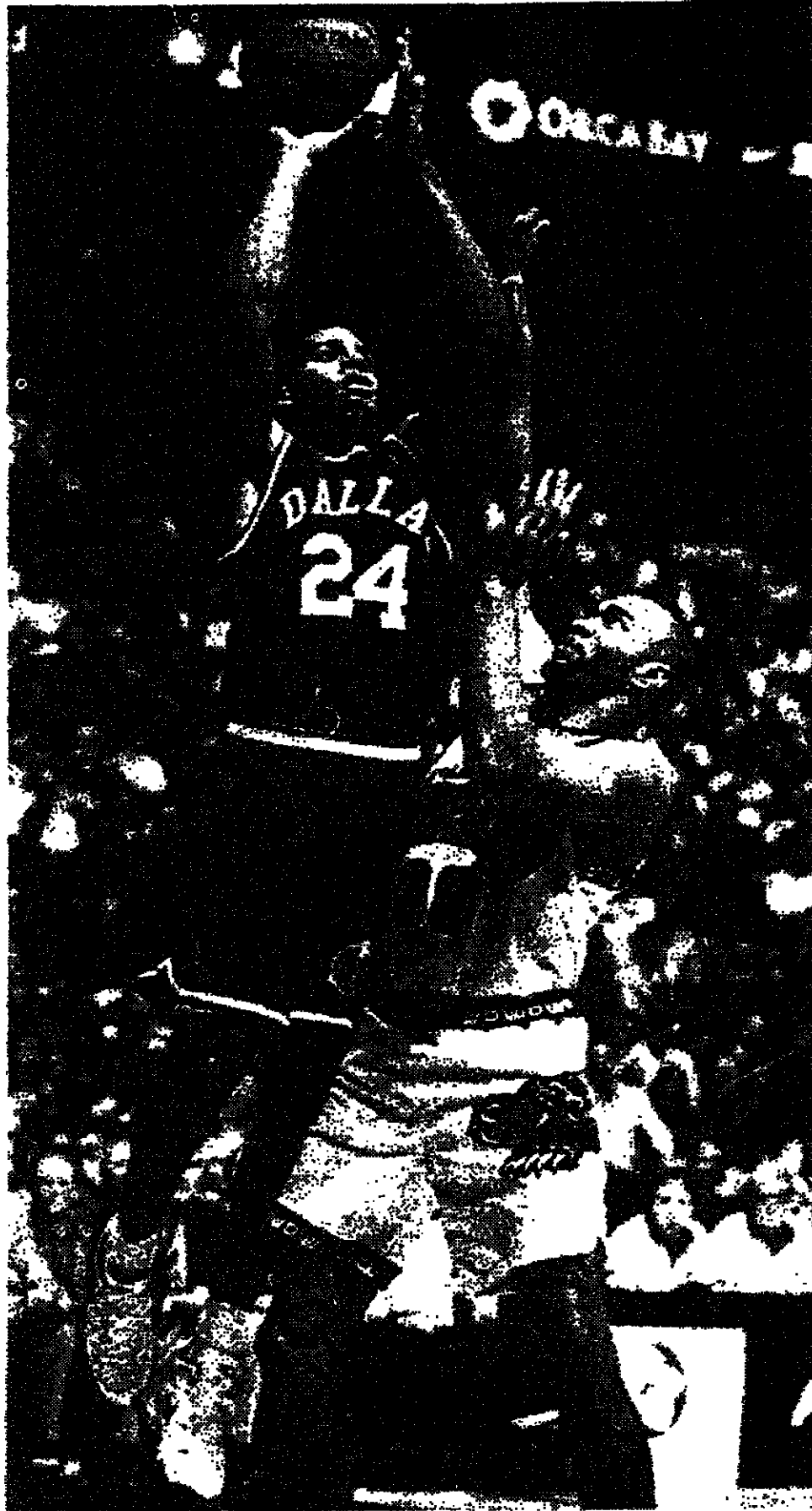
In Vancouver, Nick Van Exel scored 10 of his 25 points in a key third-quarter run and Cedric Ceballos added 17 as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the reeling Grizzlies 114-91 for their third straight win.

Greg Anthony scored 17 points and Kenny Gattison 16 for Vancouver, which lost its seventh straight after winning its first two.

In Sacramento, Brian Grant scored a season-high 24 points, six in the final five minutes, as the Kings remained atop the Pacific Division with a 105-95 win over the Phoenix Suns.

The Kings improved to 7-2 and remained a game ahead of Seattle. The Suns have lost two straight after a two-game winning streak.

Charles Barkley led Phoenix with 31 points and nine rebounds.



Dallas Mavericks' guard Jim Jackson (1) goes against Vancouver Grizzlies' guard Blue Edwards during their NBA game in Vancouver (Reuters photo)

In Charlotte, Gary Payton scored 19 points and Hersey Hawkins added 15 as the Seattle SuperSonics edged the Hornets 98-96.

Detlef Schrempf added 14 points and Shawn Kemp had 13 points and 16 rebounds for the Sonics.

Dell Curry led Charlotte with 20 points and Glen Rice added 17 points and 11 rebounds.

In Los Angeles, Brian Williams scored 11 of his 28 points in the third quarter as the Clippers won their fifth

straight game, 101-90 over the Dallas Mavericks.

The Clippers have put together their first five-game winning streak since they won eight straight in 1981.

Jamal Mashburn scored 26 points for Dallas, which has lost three of four games since starting the season 4-0.

In Chicago, Toni Kukoc scored eight of his 19 points during a key third-quarter run to lead the Bulls to a 109-94 victory over the New Jersey Nets.

Michael Jordan and Scottie

Pippen each added 18 points for Chicago, which improved to 7-1 overall and 6-0 at home.

Jayson Williams and Vern Fleming each scored 14 points for New Jersey, which is winless in four road games this season.

At Detroit, John Stockton had 21 points and 10 assists as the Utah Jazz halted the Pistons' three-game winning streak with an 86-81 victory.

Jeff Hornacek had 20 points for the Jazz, who have won three straight and six of their last seven.

In Boston, Eric Montross scored 19 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, as the Celtics snapped a two-game losing streak with a 110-100 victory over the Washington Bullets.

In Atlanta, Billy Owens scored 24 points and Alonzo Mourning added 23 and blocked seven shots as the Miami Heat defeated the Hawks 91-88.

Toronto	114	Minnesota	96
Miami	91	Atlanta	88
Boston	110	Washington	100
Seattle	98	Charlotte	96
Cleveland	114	Philadelphia	82
Utah	86	Detroit	81
Chicago	109	New Jersey	94
New York	103	Denver	94
L.A. Lakers	114	Vancouver	92
L.A. Clippers	101	Dallas	90
Sacramento	105	Phoenix	96

## Sarajevo rivals clash in walk over match

SARAJEVO (AFP) — A first minute goal scored by Sarajevo forward, Aldin Ceman, set the tone of the match between the Bosnian capital's rival football teams who clashed this week for the first time since war started three and a half years ago.

The contest, in a chilly, shell-scarred concrete stadium, was billed by the city's local media as a match between "eternal rivals." Before the war, a game between Sarajevo and Zeljeznica, or Zeljo, would have transfixed the city, but according to fans Wednesday's fixture was a paler version of past occasions.

"We used to live for this match but it's not what it used to be. Now people are

not so interested, everyone has too many of their own problems," said Sarajevo fan, Tomislav Lukic, casting an eye around the half empty stadium.

Though fighting in the city has ended after months of daily shelling and Sarajevo has settled into a state of uneasy peace, coping with life in the besieged capital still takes priority over football matches for most.

Cheered on by a small but noisy group of fans throwing smoke bombs and thunder crackers, the Sarajevo eleven went on to rout their guests five nil (5:0), a result, fans said, that reflects the toll war has taken on both teams.

Nothing of the original pre-war teams survived. All the

players from both Sarajevo and Zeljo fled when war broke out in 1992. Wednesday's players were all young, in their teens or very early 20s and lived through the war, Sarajevo team coach Fuad Muzurovic said.

"This is basically the third team. The players today are very young and have not had normal conditions to train. They missed a lot in their lives," he explained.

Training sessions were limited because of fighting in the city this summer and rules against large groups congregating outdoors, Muzurovic added.

As a result, both teams are trailing in Bosnia's national football league and are shadows of their former selves, the former professional play-

ers explained.

Sarajevo captain, midfielder Nermin Gogalic, 20, juggled his frontline obligations with training. For Wednesday's match he got a few hours off his military duties to play. "It's the dream of every player to play against Zeljo. They (the army) let me out just for the match but I have to be back soon after," he said enthusiastically.

But Gogalic who joined at the age of nine, was disappointed at the team's performance this season which has left Sarajevo in the middle of the league rather than in the top five where they used to be.

"We have not had proper training. And we are doing badly this year because of the bad conditions... we expect

## Arab Clubs Table Tennis Championship Tunisia's Benzart win opening match

By Aileen Bannayan

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Competition heated up on the second day of the Arab Clubs' Table Tennis Championship which opened in Amman Nov. 17.

Women's teams commenced the early morning schedule with titleholders Al Ahli of Egypt beating compatriots Al Zamalek 3-0 and title-hopefuls Benzart of Tunisia edging out Lebanon's Homentmen with the same result in the opening match.

Jordan's Amman Club, led by veteran Nadia Rashad, stumbled before beating Al Orthodoxy 3-1.

In the men's competition, titleholders Al Ahli of Egypt beat Kuwait's Al Jahra 3-0. Saudi Arabia's Al Ahli beat Jordan's Orthodoxy 3-2. Egypt's Al Zamalek beat Al Khartoum of Sudan 3-0 and Qatar's Al Ahli beat Lebanon's Al Ma'ni 3-1.

The Arab world's top players are representing 16 clubs from eight countries in the 6-day competition.

The men's team have been divided into two groups. Group A includes titleholders Ahli of Egypt, Jordan's Al Orthodoxy, Saudi Arabia's Al Ahli, Kuwait's Al Jahra, and Al Majma' Al Islami of Palestine.

Group B includes Al Zamalek of Egypt, Qatar's Al Ahli, Al Ma'ni of Lebanon, Jordan's Al Jazireh and Al Khartoum of Sudan.

The top two teams of each group will advance to the semifinal round.

The women's teams will play only one round. Participat-

ing teams are titleholders Al Ahli of Egypt, Benzart of Tunisia, Lebanon's Homentmen, Egypt's Al Zamalek, and Jordan's Orthodoxy and Amman.

Several officials of the game, including the president of the Arab Table Tennis Federation, Mr. Mohammad Al Hussein, are attending the event.

**Schedule of matches on Sunday, the third day of the competition (all matches are at the Sports Palace starting at 9 a.m.)**

### WOMEN'S TEAMS

Ahli (Egypt)-Amman (Jordan)  
Homentmen (Lebanon)-Orthodoxy (Jordan)  
Zamalek (Egypt)-Benzart (Tunisia)  
Ahli (Egypt)-Orthodoxy (Jordan)  
Amman (Jordan)-Benzart (Tunisia)  
Homentmen (Lebanon)-Zamalek (Egypt)

### MEN'S TEAMS

Ahli (Egypt)-Orthodoxy (Jordan)  
Kuwait-Palestine  
Zamalek (Egypt)-Al Ma'ni (Lebanon)  
Jazireh (Jordan)-Ahli (Qatar)  
Ahli (Egypt)-Ahli (Saudi Arabia)  
Orthodoxy (Jordan)-Palestine  
Zamalek (Egypt)-Ahli (Qatar)  
Jazireh (Jordan)-Khartoum (Sudan)

## Lebanon's team says 'future is ours'

During the duration of the championship, the Jordan Times will run a series of articles on participating teams. Today the focus is on Lebanon's champions Homentmen.

By Aileen Bannayan

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — While most of the teams have come to the Arab Clubs' Table Tennis Championship with a lineup of well-experienced players aiming to score advanced standings, Lebanon's women's champions Homentmen regard the event as a stepping stone towards a possible championship title in the upcoming championships.

The team includes the youngest and oldest players in the championship: 13-year-old Lisa Barikian and 14-year-old Talar Kandoyan join Lebanon's reigning No. 1 Jocelyn Track 27, and Lara Ketchebashian 18 in their third Arab championship.

When Track and Ketchebashian lost their singles matches to title-hopefuls, Tunisian players of the Benzart team, in their opening match Saturday, team officials enlisted the two younger players for the doubles match. Although they lost 21-14 and 21-12, officials and team managers praised the two youngest players for their first international performance against a team which included Africa's No. 2 Sonia Twenty.



Lebanon's Homentmen team (left) poses with championship title-hopefuls Benzart of Tunisia and the referees prior to the opening match of the women's competition (photo by Spiro Abu Rjeil)

Barikian and Kandoyan are Lebanon's reigning junior champions and are hoping to continue their club's dominance of Lebanese table tennis. At the moment, they can also learn much from the experience of their teammates who are members of the Lebanese national team.

Track, who started playing in 1984, is Lebanon's reigning champion. Before the return of the league championship, she won the Istiglal tournament from 1985-1992. She represented Lebanon in the world championship, the Mediterranean games, three Arab championships

and three champion clubs' competitions.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, head of delegation Alex Adjemia outlined his club's history of the sport.

"This is the first time we participate with a young lineup like this so we cannot expect any achievements at this time. However, I am sure we will have advanced standings in years to come."

He noted that Homentmen were the Lebanese champions in all categories up until 1974. With the halt of local competitions during the civil war, all clubs lost the input of a big number of

excelling athletes. "We have started from scratch and are hopeful that the Lebanese championship will be ours from now on."

When local competitions came back to life in 1992 once again Homentmen's women's team took the lead. They won the championship for the past three years, but conceded the 1995 title to Al Riyadi, while men's team made it up for the club by winning the championship.

Team Manager Maral Kandoyan summed up the prevalent positive attitude of the team: "We have the youngest players. The future is ours."

## Aussie boycott threat averted

NEW YORK (R) — The WTA Tour and Tennis Australia reached an agreement Friday about the disbursement of prize money at next year's Australian Open, defusing threats of a possible boycott of the event by the women players.

An increase in prize money for the event will be distributed among all the women players rather than added to

the earnings of the finalists at the season's first Grand Slam championship.

Still unresolved, however, is the issue of unequal prize money for the women and the men, the WTA Tour said in a statement.

The men's field will share a purse of \$3,198,616, while the women, who in recent years had received equal

prize money, will compete for \$2,804,203.

"Our goal is to return to equal prize money in the very near future," said players' representative Pam Shriver in a joint statement released at the season-ending championships.

"At this point in time, this is the most reasonable solution and we look forward to

ongoing discussions between the women players and Tennis Australia."

Geoff Pollard, president of Tennis Australia, said: "With this agreement, Tennis Australia is looking forward to working more actively with the women players to develop and implement various strategies for promoting and marketing women's tennis in the future."

## Becker squeezes into semifinals

FRANKFURT (R) — Boris Becker reached the semifinals of the ATP Tour world tennis championship by the thickness of a pocket calculator on Friday.

A 6-4, 7-5 defeat of Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov earned Germany's triple Wimbledon champion his second victory in the last round of matches in the round-robin group stage.

Becker finished with the same 2-1 record in matches won and lost in the white group as American world number one Pete Sampras and South African Wayne Ferreira.

But Ferreira was edged out of the two semifinal spots from the group because he had the marginally poorest record of sets won and lost.

In the semifinals of the year-ending championship, Sampras will play compatriot Michael Chang while Becker takes on Sweden's Thomas Enqvist, who won the red group.

Sampras won the white group with the best record of 5-2 in sets won and lost. But the two per cent difference in the sets won between Becker and Ferreira was as tiny as

the number of Kafelnikov fans in the packed Festhalle arena, just a short drive from Becker's home town of Leimen.

Becker won four of his seven sets played compared to Ferreira's five out of nine.

Earlier former French Open champion Chang finally broke a dismal run of form at the event when he reached the last four after five years of trying with a 6-2, 7-5 win over compatriot Jim Courier.

The situation in the group was so close that Ferreira would have gone through instead of Becker if the German had dropped a set in his victory over Kafelnikov.

Becker fended off several break points against him in the sixth and eighth games of the second set before making a key break of serve to lead 6-5. But he had to produce some remarkable aces under pressure to save the day.

"The pressure was just so much more because I knew that if I had a bad 10 minutes or so he was going to get a break," Becker said. "I was not only battling against him but I was battling against me being out of the tournament."

The 21-year-old Kafelnikov lost his nerve with the excited crowd at the end of the first set when he was given a warning for sticking up his middle finger — a particularly undiplomatic gesture in Germany.

Ferreira was unlucky not to survive, especially since he had beaten Sampras on Thursday.

Becker, who went out of the tournament in 1991 in the similar circumstances, called for the round-robin format to be abolished and replaced with knock-out system.

"We have to re-think the format because it cannot be like that you win two matches out of your round-robin and you are not able to qualify for the semifinal," he said.

"In all the tournaments in the world we play the knock-out system and they had it in the masters a few years ago."

Chang has competed five times at the Frankfurt Championship and the identical event it replaced on the tour, the Masters which was held in New York.

But until Friday he had never reached the semifinals after just three victories in 14 matches.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH USE THOSE LITTLE GREY CELLS

flawed by the potential misfit, hence the non-firing jump to three diamonds. With a fit for partner, a positional spade stopper and full value for an opening bid, South converted to three no trump.

West led a spade. Had declarer reflexively played low from dummy,

East would have won with the king and a club shift would have doomed the contract — the defenders would come to one spade, three clubs and a diamond.

Fortunately, declarer took time to consider the situation. The queen of spades was surely behind the king, so there was no fear that the spades were going to run if the ace was played. Since the odds favored a 3-1 diamond split, a trick would probably have to be lost in that suit. To correct the timing, declarer rose

with the ace of spades and immediately went after diamonds, conceding a trick to East. No matter what the defenders did, declarer would be assured of at least one spade trick, two hearts, five diamonds and a club.

How should the hand be played at duplicate? Well, this deal is from the 1934 Masters Pairs Championship, and the late Richard Frey, partnered by Howard Schenken, played it just this way to earn most of the matchpoints.

Both vulnerable, South deals.  
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WEST  
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QJ106532  
Q5  
Q983  
SOUTH  
AQ5  
Q74

OK 102  
AJ64  
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SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
1A Pass 10 1A  
Pass Pass 30 Pass  
3NT  
Opening lead: Eight of A  
All too many contracts are lost by hasty play at the very first trick! Here's a classic example.  
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## England into final after win over Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — England swept into the final of the world team squash championship here on Friday with an emphatic 3-0 victory over hosts Egypt.

England, who are bidding to win the title for the first time, fully capitalised on Wednesday's victory over holders Pakistan, which meant they won the group and got the easier semi-final draw.

The English believe they can upset both the higher ranked Pakistan and Australia, and on Friday's evidence looked as good as favourites.

England omitted leading player Simon Parke to keep him fresh for Saturday's final and were still far too strong for Egypt.

Del Harris, the world open finalist in Nicosia six days before, needed only 37 minutes and conceded only seven points to the world number 18 Amir Wagh as he won 9-5, 9-2, 9-0.

Harris, a former world junior champion who at the age of 26 is enjoying a renaissance in his career, was breath taking with the speed at which he covered the court.

He also played more con-

sistently and more calmly than the previous day in the quarter-finals, when he was taken the full distance by Canada's Jonathan Power and given a code-of-conduct warning.

But Wagh, possibly with an eye on the bronze medal match which Egypt think they can win, was disappointingly error-prone and appeared to lack commitment.

Quite the opposite was true of world junior champion Ahmad Barada in the opening contest, which was noisy, marked by arguments and nearly saw an upset.

The Youngster had two points to take a two-game lead against the world number seen Chris Walker before losing 6-9, 10-8, 9-1, 9-7.

Had he won either of them, Barada looked capable of getting on top of the Englishman, whose form is variable and whose temperament at the moment is inclined to be insecure.

Walker also had to be ordered several times to play on by the referee after contesting decisions.

In the third rubber, England's Mark Chaloner beat Ahmad Faizy 9-3, 9-6, 9-0.

## Women's Weightlifting Chinese women win gold

GUANGZHOU (AFP) — Even nursing a recurring hip injury, Liu Xihua of China easily topped the 50-kilogramme field Saturday at the Women's World Weightlifting Championships.

Liu, 20, snatched 85 kg and lifted 102.5 kg in the clean and jerk for a combined total of 187.5, 10 kg off her own world record.

The 20-year-old Guangzhou native declined her third attempt in the clean and jerk to avoid aggravating the injury, which resurfaced during the seven months of intensive training the Chinese women's team underwent in Beijing.

Chu Nan-Mei of Taiwan won the silver medal with a

combined total of 177.5 kg. Izabela Rifafova of Bulgaria was third with 172.5 kg.

Chinese women have won both gold medals so far awarded at the world championships.

Liu entered the snatch competition at 80 kg, a weight not reached by any other competitor, except Chu, who successfully snatched 80 kg on her third attempt.

In the clean and jerk, Liu began at 100 kg, which only Chen Li-Chun of Taiwan attempted.

Chen, who had missed two previous attempts at lower weights, failed to lift the bar past her knees and was disqualified from the competition.

## Von Gruenigen wins giant slalom

VAIL, Colorado (AFP) — Switzerland's Michael Von Gruenigen overcame a deficit of nearly a second on the second leg to win his second men's alpine World Cup giant slalom in a row here on Friday.

The race, run under brilliant sunshine in spring-like temperatures, produced a carbon copy of the top-three finishers from the previous giant slalom in Tignes, France.

Von Gruenigen had a total time for the two legs of 2min 28.88 seconds to head Norway's Lasse Kjus (2:29.24) and Switzerland's Urs Kaelin, who was third in 2:30.69.

Unlike last week, when he led from start to finish, Von Gruenigen had to take some big risks on the second leg, which he started nine tenths of a second behind Kjus.

His second leg was flawless

enough to give him the victory by 36 hundredths of a second.

"I didn't expect to beat Kjus because I knew he was in great form and he proved it on the first leg. I didn't commit any errors on a difficult course. That was the secret of my victory."

Kjus, whose only World Cup victory to date was a combined at Kitzbuehl in 1994, was left still looking for his first win in a solo discipline.

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## 5 more Malaysian footballers banned for life

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — The football association of Malaysia's northern Kedah state has banned five players for life for matchfixing as officials stepped up bids to clean up Malaysian soccer.

newsreports said Saturday.

Kedah's move followed a similar punishment unprecedentedly meted out on Wednesday by the national Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) on six players from eastern Sabah state.

"We are banning the five for life to serve as a deterrent to others and we don't want to have anything to do with people who have betrayed us and the profession," Kedah FA deputy president Ahmad Basri Akil was reported saying by the New Straits Times daily.

Former international Lee Kin Hong along with S. Thanasegar, Lee Thean Ewe, Faridzuan Hamid and Norazam Ishak would also be banned from representing the state in any international tournaments as well, state football officials said.

The five were earlier this year suspended by the FAM after they admitted involvement in matchfixing in last year's Malaysia premier league.

They were members of the Kedah state team which won the premier league and Malaysia Cup titles in 1993.

"There is no way we can be lenient with the five because they had confessed to the police that they were involved with bookies. They should pay a heavy price for that," Basri said.

TORONTO (R) — The Canadian Football League holds its Grey Cup Championship Sunday after a chaotic season which has left its much-hyped expansion to the United States in disarray and raised questions about the league's survival.

The championship between the Baltimore Stallions and Calgary Stampede will mark the second time a U.S. team has met a Canadian team for the championship. Baltimore lost to the British Columbia Lions in last year's final.

Every team in the 13-member league is expected to lose money this season. The five American-based teams — Baltimore, Shreveport, Louisiana San Antonio Memphis and Birmingham, Alabama — are expected to lose a

combined \$15 million and at least three of them are pondering moves to other cities.

"One way or another we have to lose less money. We simply have to attract better crowds," Fred Anderson, owner of the San Antonio Texans, said in an interview.

Canada's game closely resembles the U.S. Brand, but

there are a few differences. The playing field is longer and wider, there are 12 players a side compared to 11 in the United States, and more movement is allowed in the offensive backfield.

Canadian teams get only three downs instead of four to gain 10 yards and keep possession of the ball.

Some U.S. owners are threatening to form their own league unless the 131-year-old Canadian game is "Americanized" to lure more fans south of the border.

The embattled U.S. owners are expected to push for a shorter field, four downs, and scrapping rules requiring each Canadian team to have 20 Canadian players.

## Sabatini, Martinez join upset list

NEW YORK (R) — Defending champion Gabriela Sabatini and world number two Conchita Martinez joined the upset-victims list on Friday at the \$2 million season-ending championships, now nearly bankrupt of seeded stars.

Natasha Zvereva of Belarus eliminated fifth-seeded fan favourite Sabatini 6-2, 5-7, 7-5 to the jeers of the Madison Square Garden crowd, while Dutchwoman Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, ranked 14th in the world, disposed of Martinez 7-5, 6-2.

The results left only one seeded player among the semifinalists — world number one Steffi Graf, who will take on 15th-ranked Zvereva. Schultz-McCarthy meets unseeded German Anke Huber in the afternoon's second semifinal.

The tour championships have never before had more than one unseeded semifinalist.

Sabatini and Zvereva waged a spirited duel that lasted two hours and 22 minutes. It ended, however, on a sour note as Sabatini stood frozen in disbelief over a disputed line call on a backhand drive on the fourth match point.

The crowd, which needed admonishing during the match for shouting before and during points, booed lustily at seeing their darling deposed, and chair umpire Michael Morrissey beat a hasty retreat from his seat.

"He left just as I was about to shake his hand," said Zvereva. "I was shocked. I think he knew he was going to get booed (for not reversing the call) so he just got out of there."

Zvereva had surprised Sabatini with her confident play and the aggressiveness with which she charged the net. She rushed forward 66 times, winning 43 points in the process.



Conchita Martinez

"Nobody says anything about her game," said Sabatini, who won the affection of New York fans with two season-ending championship titles and a U.S.-Open

triumph. "But she is very talented. When she is on, she can beat anybody."

Sabatini battled back from 2-5 down in the third set, saving one match point in the seventh game and two more

in a four-deuce eighth game that gave her a break she used to draw level, eventually, at 5-5.

But Zvereva, who ousted last year's runner-up, Lindsay Davenport, in her first

match here, held serve and broke the Argentine to win.

"It's quite amazing to me that I've beaten two of the top, top players," Zvereva said.

Martinez felt she was beaten in part by a sudden ruling that stopped the ball girls from holding bags of ice against her stiff neck during changeovers.

The Spaniard had benefited from the changeover assistance on Wednesday when she rallied to beat Croatian Iva Majoli in three sets and was helped during the early changeover against Schultz-McCarthy until told at 4-5 in the first set that it was against the rules.

Tournament supervisor Georgian Clark explained later that only a trainer can apply hands-on treatment to a player, and that Martinez had been allowed to receive assistance in error.

The same woman, Jane Harvey, was the chair umpire for both of Martinez's matches.

"That was my worst moment, at 5-4 down," said Martinez. "It pulled me out of balance. I couldn't do much after that."

Schultz-McCarthy, 24, surely had something to do with Martinez's ineffectiveness as she smashed eight aces, including one burner that registered a tournament-fastest 115 mph (185 kph) on the radar gun, in her 69-minute victory.

"This was definitely one of the best wins of my life," said the 6-foot-2 (1.88 m) Schultz-McCarthy.

"It's always nice to beat someone and have no excuses made after the match," said Schultz-McCarthy. "But I'm happy to have won, and I'm happy to be in the semifinals."

## CFL future with U.S. football expansion in disarray

TORONTO (R) — The Canadian Football League holds its Grey Cup Championship Sunday after a chaotic season which has left its much-hyped expansion to the United States in disarray and raised questions about the league's survival.

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Delan Walsh & Lora Leeni...in <b>CONGO</b>		Denzel Washington Jene Hackman ... In <b>CRIMSON TIDE</b>		CONCORD "1" Sylvester Stallone...in <b>ASSASSINS</b>		MUSA HIJAZIN "Sumaa" in <b>Hi Citizen</b>	In view of the travel of the actors abroad the theatre is closed until further notice
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Adel Iniam & Yusra Birds of the Darkness Shows: 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:15		daily at 8:30 p.m. Written & directed by Mohammad Shawaqfeh	



## Executive-legislative ties are exemplary - premier

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Saturday described the working relationship between the legislative and executive authorities as exemplary and marked by close cooperation.

Speaking to reporters during an inspection tour of the Parliament House which is undergoing refurbishing, the prime minister said that the government and Parliament were working in the "spirit of a united team which has achieved great results from the extraordinary sessions as well as the ordinary sessions."

Referring to the start of Parliament's ordinary session in December, the prime

minister said that his government would pursue constructive cooperation with the legislative authority in a manner that would safeguard national interests.

In reply to a question by the press, Sharif Zeid said that he did not read in King Hussein's last speech that there was a change in the government's position vis-a-vis the opposition. But he added: "I personally believe that the opposition should be 100 per cent Jordanian in orientation, formulating views from inside the Kingdom and practising opposition for the sake of serving the country."

Referring to the ongoing refurbishing process in Parliament, Sharif Zeid said he was happy with the progress of work.

Nathir Atiyat, Parliament's acting secretary general, told the press that a parliamentary committee co-chaired by the speakers of the two Houses of Parliament had been entrusted with proposing recommendations to the Ministry of Public Works and

Housing about the renovation work.

Mr. Atiyat said that several experts were involved in the work and modern equipment were installed to overcome the problem of unclear sound. Now the Parliament could seat 190 people on the main floor.

Also on Saturday the speaker of the Lower House received in his office editors of weeklies and political parties' papers to discuss ways for preventing excesses by tabloids which have been causing some problems.

The group, which is a follow-up committee to solve problems involving journalists' writings, discussed with Mr. Srour cooperation between editors and Parliament.

Mr. Srour said that Parliament was keen on pursuing dialogue and cooperating with all parties and the press.

The local press should seek to avoid any negative practices that might harm the nation, he said.



Ahmad Lawzi

## Lawzi's term is renewed

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday extending the mandate of Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi for two more years as of Nov. 23, 1995. Mr. Lawzi's current mandate started on Nov. 23, 1993.

## Regent visits GHQ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday visited the General Headquarters and met with the chairman of the joint chiefs-of-staff, General Abdul Hafez Mirai, and his assistants to discuss issues of concern to the Armed Forces.

The Regent also received at the Army Headquarters Lieutenant-General Muinuddin Haidar, assistant to the Pakistani chief-of-staff, and an accompanying delegation now on a visit to Jordan. They discussed issues of common concern to Pakistan and Jordan.

The Regent also re-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai during a visit to the General Headquarters on Saturday (Armed Forces photo)

ceived Saturday a delegation representing the Royal Dutch Air

Force and reviewed developments in the Middle East peace process.

## COLUMN

### Britain tricks, jails cocaine smuggler

LONDON (R) — A Colombian man was jailed for nine years Friday after British customs officers tricked him into supplying them with cocaine with a street value of £50 million (\$78 million), the Customs Service said. Francisco Antonio Lopera-Soto, 36, was arrested after 243 kg (536 lb) of cocaine was found in a consignment of cut flowers flown in to Manchester Airport in January 1994. The Customs Service said a team of undercover customs officers had set up a warehouse for Mr. Lopera-Soto and an accomplice, fellow Colombian Gerardo Baron Borja, to deliver the smuggled cocaine to Mr. Borja had also pleaded guilty to smuggling drugs, but a court in Woolwich, east London, deferred sentence on him pending a medical report. "It is alleged that both men are part of a cartel based in Cali, Colombia, and involved in the shipment of large quantities of cocaine into the United States and Europe," a customs statement said.

### Spacemen short of ballot papers for Russian poll

MOSCOW (R) — Two cosmonauts, orbiting the Earth aboard the Mir space station, will not take part in Russia's Dec. 17 election because earthlings forgot to send them any ballot papers. ITAR-TASS news agency Friday quoted cosmonaut Yuri Gidzenko as saying that neither the last Russian supply rocket nor the U.S. Atlantis had brought any voting papers. "They obviously did not get round to it," he told reporters in a conversation broadcast from space.

### 1.5 billion to watch Miss World contest

SUN CITY, South Africa (AFP) — A total of 1.5 billion people in 107 countries were forecast to tune in to the final of the Miss World beauty contest being staged here for the fourth time Saturday, organisers said. The title-holder will be rewarded with a prize of \$75,000 and gifts from sponsors with more than \$400,000 more, but the real winner will be the Sun International Group, owners of the Sun City leisure complex. The total cost of the two hour show is some \$5.5 million.

### Italian boy wakes from coma to face police fine

VENICE, Italy (R) — A five-year-old Italian boy who went into a coma when he was hit by a car was fined after he recovered for not using a zebra crossing to cross the street, Italian News Agency (ANSA) reported. It called the episode a case where bureaucracy could not only be "blind but in this case, without pity." Luca Rizzo was riding in a car with his mother last September in the northern town of Mira, near Venice, when he spotted his father on the other side of the street and ran across the street towards his father when he was hit by another car in the opposite lane. The boy spent three weeks in a coma before he began recovering. After he returned home, highway police sent the boy a notice requiring his mother to pay a 41,000 lire (\$25) fine for crossing the street in the wrong place. The agency quoted police as saying they had no choice but to send the fine in case legal complications arose involving the driver of the car that hit the boy.

## Arab leaders hail Zeroual's election as Algerian president

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Arab leaders on Saturday hailed the victory of Liamine Zeroual in Algeria's presidential election as a step towards resolving the blood conflict between the authorities and Islamic militants.

The secretary general of the Arab League, Esmat Abdul Meguid, said the election of Mr. Zeroual as president was a "step towards democracy."

"These elections are a step towards democracy that will allow the Algerian people to expect stability and security on their entire territory and to begin a new stage in their development," Dr. Abdul Meguid said, as quoted by the official Egyptian news agency MENA.

"The results of these elections and the massive voter turnout constitute the best response to terrorist forces trying to promote instability," said Dr. Abdul Meguid.

He said he sent a message of congratulations to Mr. Zeroual after the election results were announced.

"I hope to God that choosing you through direct, free elections would be a basic step toward taking Algeria out of its crisis," said King Hussein in a message sent to Mr. Zeroual published by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"I also hope that Algeria will regain its shining role within the Arab order."

Crown Prince Hassan also sent a message saying the elections "drew world attention to your desire for democracy as a working agenda. It also serves as a path out of the crisis that has crippled Algeria's development."

"It is hoped now that the overwhelming majority of Algerians would put an end to extremism and violence," Prince Hassan said.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said in a message to Mr. Zeroual: "I am confident you will succeed in guiding Algeria to security, stability

and progress with the support of the Algerian people."

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia also sent his congratulations, stressing the strong ties between his country and Algeria, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in an interview carried on French television: "Now that there is a new president, Algeria's problems can be resolved by means of legislative elections."

"The people will choose the reforms they want by means of elections, not by means of force," Mr. Mubarak said late Friday.

Mr. Zeroual also received messages from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan and Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani.

"It gives us pleasure, in our name and on behalf of the leadership and the people of Iraq, to present to you the warmest greetings and sincere fraternal blessings, praying to God the Almighty to help you to lead the sisterly Algerian people," a radio announcer said, reading the text of President Saddam's telegram.

President Saddam hoped that Mr. Zeroual's election would boost Algeria's "pan-Arab role in the service of our glorious Arab Nation."

Yemen's head of state Ali Abdullah Saleh telephoned him to wish his Algerian counterpart success.

Mr. Zeroual, the incumbent, won 61.34 per cent of the vote in Algeria's first free presidential elections on Thursday.

In the Gulf, official newspapers said the poll had legitimised Mr. Zeroual's rule and hoped it would end the country's three-year civil war which has cost between 30,000 and 50,000 lives.

"The election gave

Liamine Zeroual a constitutional legitimacy and a popular mandate, important and necessary conditions for reconstruction and legislative elections," the Saudi daily Al Madina said.

The elections showed that Algeria wants to be healed while the big turnout despite threats from armed groups proves that Algerians want to see the light at the end of the tunnel."

The Gulf Times in Qatar and the Khaleej Times of the UAE said the poll demonstrated that Algerians did not support fundamentalist violence.

The Tunisian government daily La Presse said: "Algerians have demonstrated in front of the whole world their deep-seated rejection of the principles of blind terrorism."

Algeria's civil war began when the military stepped in to cancel the second round of the country's first free legislative election in January 1992 which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front, now banned, was poised to win. U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali congratulated the Algerian president on his victory in the country's first free presidential elections.

Spain said it hoped the election would lead to renewed talks with the main opposition parties and an end to violence.

"The Spanish government trusts that these elections will be followed by progress towards the democratisation of Algeria through dialogue with the main political forces which will lead to the cessation of violence," the foreign ministry said.

"The Spanish government wishes to continue its policy of developing bilateral economic relations and its cooperation activities which are designed to support the reform process," the foreign ministry statement added.

## King thanks Shomans, Arab Bank for JD 1.5m donation to Jubilee School

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday sent two cables to Senator Abdul Majeed Shoman, chairman and general manager of the Arab Bank, and his deputy Khaled Shoman, thanking them for the bank's donation last week of JD 1.5 million to the Jubilee School.

"I and our one Jordanian family were deeply moved by your donation of JD 1.5 million to be used in building the physical education section at the Jubilee School," the King said in his cable to Senator Shoman.

The King said he was keen to expand the school, which he described as a pioneering experience in modern educational methods, to make it benefit all parts of Jordan.

"As I voice my thanks and gratitude for you and the dear family of the Arab Bank over this patriotic initiative which depicts the true feelings of belonging... I implore Almighty God to protect you and help us all in serving the interests of our homeland and our large united Jordanian family," King Hussein said.

In his cable to Khaled Shoman, King Hussein said he was keen to have the school become a distinguished educational institution.

Last Monday, Mr. Shoman presented the King with a message announcing the bank donation and the King voiced deep appreciation and thanks to the bank for "this generous contribution, which would contribute to further

boosting the services of the school to the local communities."

The Jubilee School, which was opened by Her Majesty Queen Noor in 1993 at a temporary site in Abdoun district, offers gifted students a unique learning experience and curriculum based on their special needs, capabilities and experiences.

The advanced academic programme at the school, which is run by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), meets the intellectual, effective and creative needs of gifted students and challenges them to achieve their full potential.

The King and Queen laid the foundation stone for the school's permanent premises in Yajouz in May.

## Talibans launch major assault against Kabul, claim advances

KABUL (AFP) — Afghan government officials said their troops Saturday repulsed a massive attack by the Taliban militia who were attempting to broaden their siege of Kabul.

But the Taliban claimed making an advance in their two-pronged thrust and an Afghan information agency based in Pakistan said the militia had gained some 10 kilometres in fighting since Friday.

Meanwhile, at least four civilians were killed Saturday and nine injured when a rocket barrage — which the military said was fired from Taliban positions around Kabul — slammed into a crowded bazaar in the city centre, the defence ministry said.

The salvo struck the market during a peak shopping hour when the area was thronging with men, women and children.

The Taliban used 1,000 men, 15 tanks, missiles, rockets and heavy artillery to seize an eight-kilometre area southeast of the already besieged Afghan capital, in an attack launched late Thursday, defence and military officials here said.

The offensive — which

took place 30 kilometres from the capital — was repulsed Saturday by troops loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani in a counter-offensive, the Defence Ministry said.

The government won back lost ground and pushed back the "religious students" by a further three kilometres, the ministry said.

Last Saturday, Afghan Islamic Press (AIP), based in Pakistan with wireless contacts inside Afghanistan, said the Taliban had taken at least 15 villages during the fighting since Friday.

AIP said the militia had advanced by about 10 kilometres and the new front-line now was at Bunkhak, east of Kabul. A counter-offensive by the government troops Saturday morning failed to push the attackers back, it added.

"We have done very well," an official in Kabul said.

"We have recaptured all the lost territory, as well as an important strategic position which was held by the Taliban. Now the fight is on to push them further back," he said.

By late Saturday, heavy fighting had continued in the area for nearly 48 hours since

the initial Taliban push, with the government hitting back at the rebels with missiles, aerial bombing, and tank and artillery fire, frontline commanders told AFP.

Scores of artillery rounds could be heard from both sides of the frontline Saturday, while the sound of Soviet-built missiles being launched shattered the silence of the barren, brown sand valley where both sides were battling it out.

"The Taliban have lost many men as the government troops were in defence positions and were therefore better protected," the defence ministry source said.

He said the Taliban were attempting to extend one of the four frontlines hemming in the city to the south, and to push round to the east of Kabul in a bid to make the besieged city more vulnerable to the rebels.

The Taliban want to rid the east of the city of government control and also push back the opposition Hezb-e-Islami, who are encamped 50 kilometres from Kabul, and who also want to bring down the government and take power for themselves, he said.

## France isolated after cancelling key European meetings over nuclear row

PARIS (AFP) — French President Jacques Chirac on Saturday faced growing isolation after he took the drastic step of cancelling high-level meetings with key European partners who opposed his nuclear testing programme.

Enmity aroused by Mr. Chirac's petulant cancellation of a long-planned summit with Italian Prime Minister Lamberto Dini and a lunch meeting with Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene in Paris could paralyse the European Union (EU), the diplomats said. Both meetings were scheduled for next week.

"If France does not rapidly resolve its conflicts, especially with Italy, that could paralyse the European Union when this country (Italy) takes on the presidency in January," a diplomat said Saturday in Brussels.

Following the announcement Friday, Mr. Dini expressed "extreme regret" at the cancellation of the summit.

Italian Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli added she hoped the French would be so "small-minded as to

allow episode to jeopardise Rome's presidency of the European Union."

This period will be crucial for the 15-member countries, because it precedes an inter-governmental conference to revise the Maastricht Treaty.

France's centre-left Le Monde daily Saturday also considered Mr. Chirac "had taken the risk of provoking a crisis within the European Union."

In a commentary, Le Monde said Mr. Chirac's "rush of blood" was "a bad-mannered retaliation for the bad manners shown to him at the United Nations."

Italy and Belgium were among 10 EU countries that voted for the draft U.N. resolution Thursday.

"The path chosen by Chirac could finish by backfiring on France and on Europe," the paper warned.

Mr. Chirac embarked on a controversial series of nuclear tests in the South Pacific in September, with a fourth test expected soon.

The president has already expressed annoyance with anti-nuclear countries such as Austria, Denmark and

Sweden by recalling ambassadors or postponing official meetings, but the move against Italy and Belgium, both founding members of the European Union, is the strongest yet.

A French government spokesman Saturday sought to play down the affair, saying Mr. Chirac's decisions were "a response to a hostile gesture and a lack of European solidarity."

Belgium also sought to limit the damage.

In an interview with Belgian television RTBF, Mr. Dehaene refused to speak of division, stressing instead that agreement within the EU on a future treaty banning nuclear tests was much more important than any current niggling.

He claimed there was no "personal friction" between him and the French president.

On Saturday Italian politicians and the press were divided on who was to blame for the Franco-Italian conflict, with several arguing the Italian government should not have backed the U.N. anti-nuclear resolution.

## Lubbers says U.S. does not want leader as NATO chief

THE HAGUE (AFP) — Former Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers has hit out at U.S. rejection of his candidacy for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) top civilian post, saying Washington did not want a former premier to run the Western alliance, the Dutch news agency ANP reported Saturday.

Mr. Lubbers, whose candidacy to the post of NATO secretary general was withdrawn eight days ago following U.S. objections, said Washington's decision was motivated by the fact that as a head of government he could have proved more of an obstacle than the rubber-stamp that the U.S. government wants in Brussels.

NATO usually promotes to its top job former defence and foreign ministers used to implementing the decisions of others, and not former premiers used to taking decisions themselves, Mr. Lubbers was quoted by ANP as saying.

"I was surprised when (Dutch Foreign Minister Hans) van Mierlo asked me to present my candidacy," Mr. Lubbers said.

NATO usually appoints people "who are part of the circuit, who are familiar with

its organisation — defence or foreign ministers," the erstwhile premier said.

Mr. Lubbers said he finally agreed to put forward his candidacy after the Hague received encouraging signals from Washington.

But Washington pressured Mr. Lubbers to withdraw from the race after he had been strongly backed in Europe, leaving Denmark's Uffe Ellemann-Jensen as the only candidate.

Reports from Washington have said been vague on why Mr. Lubbers was rejected, suggesting either that Washington was not impressed by his management skills or that they opposed him over his support for a slower expansion of NATO into eastern Europe.

The Western alliance has been without a leader for almost a month since Willy Claes resigned Oct. 20 to fight allegations of corruption in his native Belgium.

The lack of leadership has come as NATO is gearing up for its largest ever operation, the implementation of a hoped-for peace deal in Bosnia.

## Brotherhood rejects Mubarak charges

CAIRO (AFP) — The Muslim Brotherhood on Saturday denied accusations by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that it was involved in the assassination of his predecessor Anwar Sadat.

"We call on God the highest to prove our innocence of these unfair, unjustified and baseless accusations," the Brotherhood said in a statement.

Mr. Mubarak told the French daily Le Monde Friday that the fundamentalist group "killed Sadat," who was assassinated in October 1981 by militants. "The Muslim Brotherhood, Jihad, the Gamaa Islamiyah, they are all the same," the president said.

The Brotherhood was banned in 1954 but tolerated since the mid-1970s when it officially rejected the use of violence.

However, Mr. Mubarak accused it last year of being behind militant violence, and a recent police crackdown has seen 81 Brothers brought before the military courts.